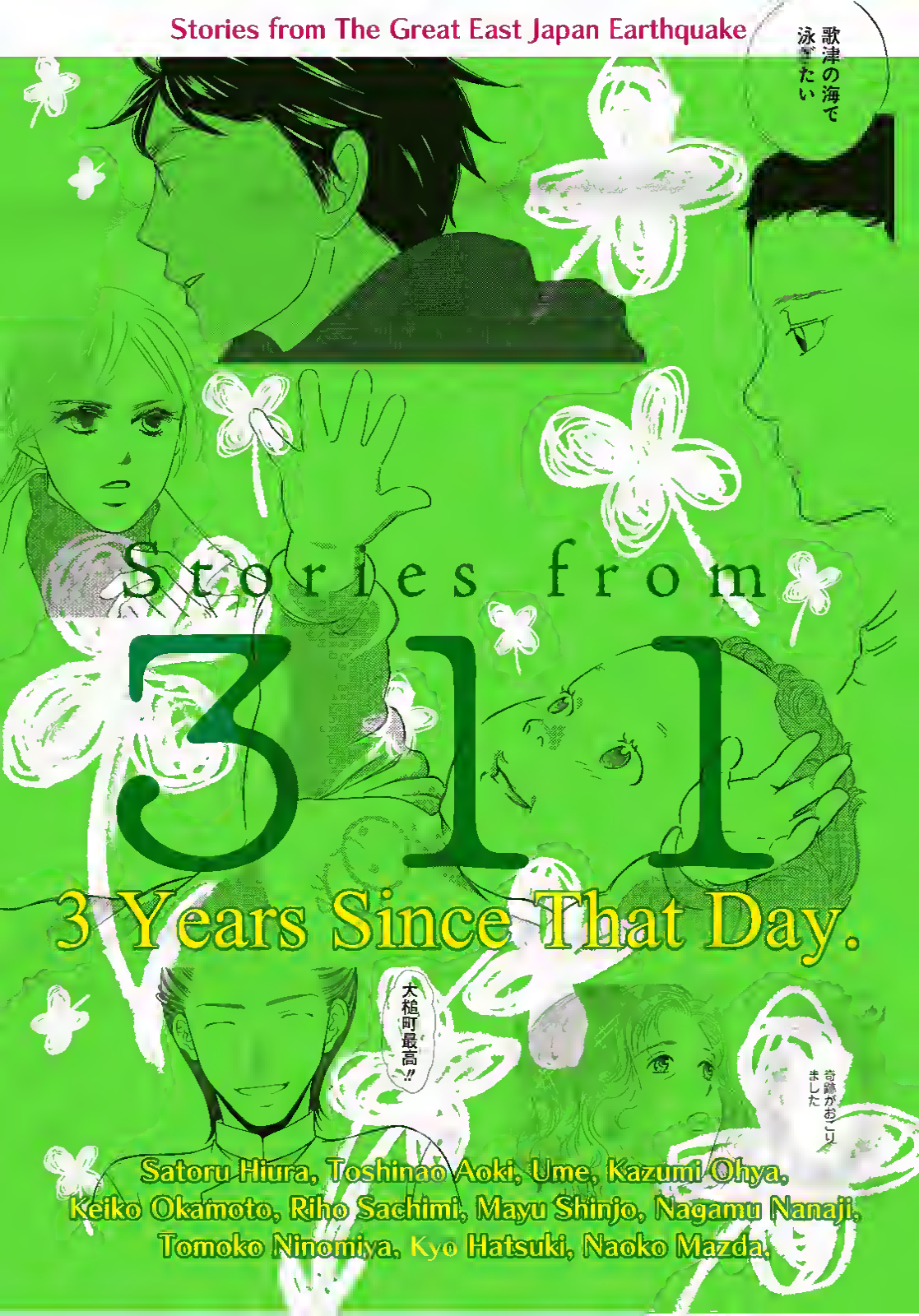


Satoru Hiura, Toshinao Aoki, Ume, Kazumi Ohya,
Keiko Okamoto, Riho Sachimi, Mayu Shinjo, Nagamu Nanaji,
Tomoko Ninomiya, Kyo Hatsuki, Naoko Mazda.

Stories from The Great East Japan Earthquake

Stories from 311

3 Years Since That Day

Satoru Hiura
Toshinao Aoki
Ume
Kazumi Ohya
Keiko Okamoto
Riho Sachimi
Mayu Shinjo
Nagamu Nanaji
Tomoko Ninomiya
Kyo Hatsuki
Naoko Mazda

Contents

Prologue: Satoru Hiura 4

Story 1 Riho Sachimi: Tomioka-machi, Fukushima 6

Story 2 Keiko Okamoto: Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi 16

Story 3 Kyo Hatsuki: Fukushima & Osaka 26

Story 4 Satoru Hiura: Fukushima 36

Story 5 Mayu Shinjo: Otsuchi-cho, Iwate 46

Special Contribution Mitsuya Sasaki: Sendai City, Miyagi 56

Story 6 Nagamu Nanaji: Miyako City, Miyagi 62

Story 7 Kazumi Ohya: Koriyama City, Fukushima 72

Story 8 Toshinao Aoki: Ofunato City & Oshu City, Iwate 82

Story 9 Ume: Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi 92

Story 10 Tomoko Ninomiya: Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi 102

Story 11 Naoko Mazda: Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi 112

About the Manga: Staff Comments 122

Supporting Companies and Groups 124

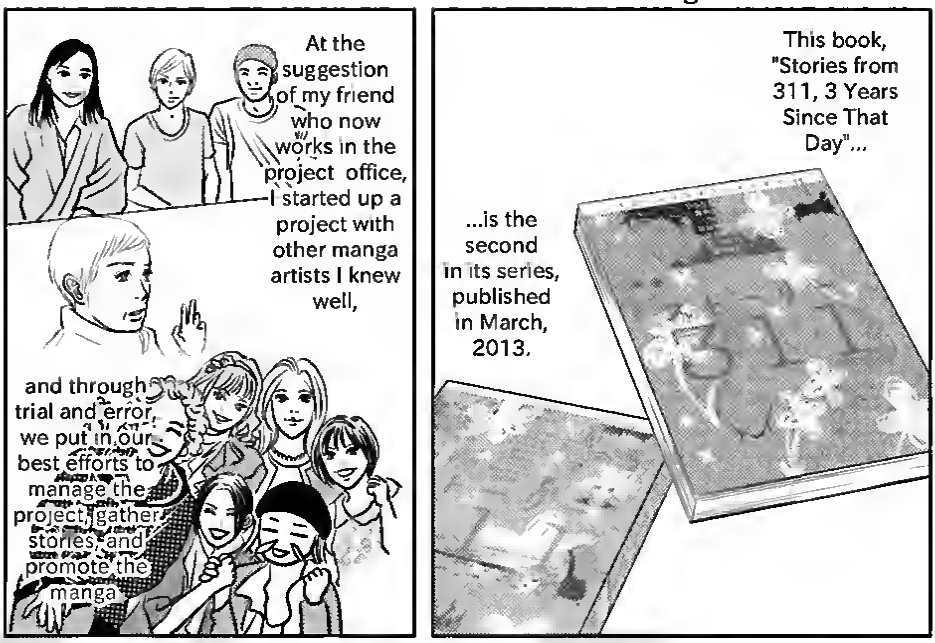
What is "Stories from 311"?

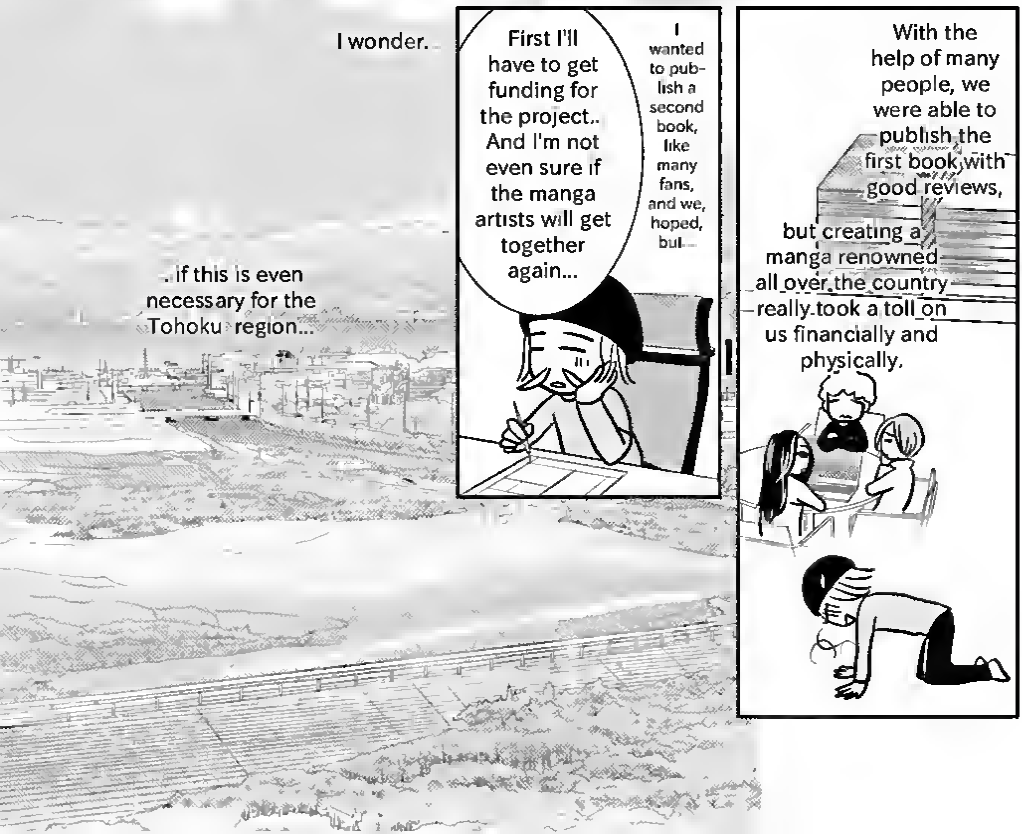
On January 1st, 2012, 10 months after the Great East Japan Earthquake, manga artist Satoru Hiura asked herself, "What can I do with manga?" The project she started became "Stories from 311". Many things have happened in the areas affected on that fateful day of March 11th, 2011. All the sadness, the strife of living in shelters, the bonds that were forming within the families and communities, the young people who got through the disaster... What could a manga artist do about that?

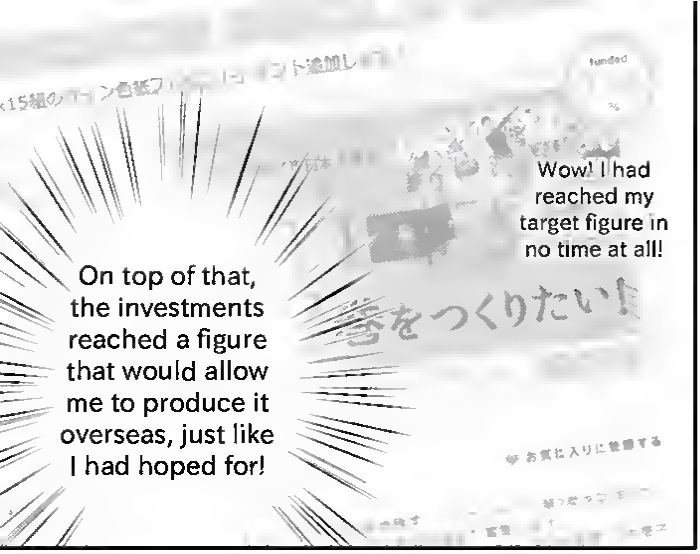
One of the things they could do was write about each of their stories through manga. The first book of these stories was published by Kodansha on March 11th, 2013, and the book you are holding now, the second of the series, has been published by Kadokawa Corporation. As with the first book, the manga artists united their aims and visited the actual sites to write about the stories of the people that lived through it all for this book.

Though it has been three years since the tragedy, and there has been progress in reconstruction, there is still no way of forgetting what has happened there. The area is still in a dire situation, and faces new problems all the time. The manga artists hope that the readers will always remember in their hearts the struggle of the people in these areas from that unforgettable day up to this very moment.

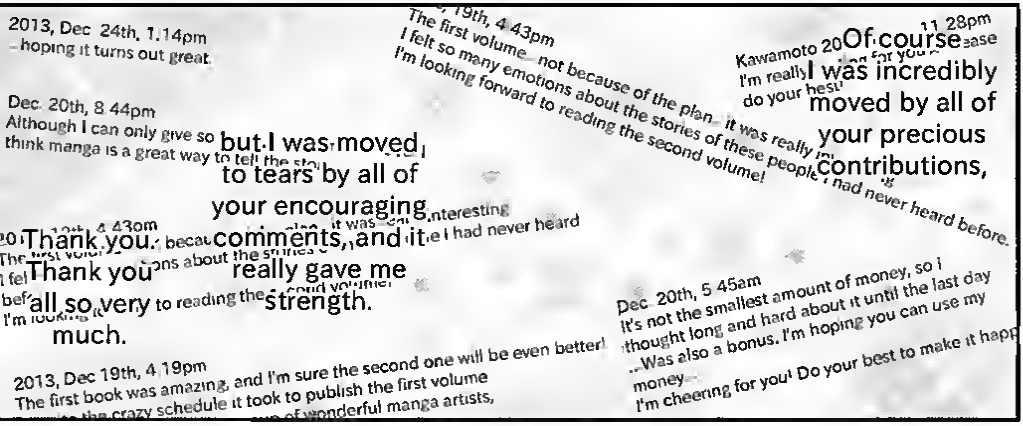
All royalties made from this publication will be donated to the reconstruction efforts of the affected area.

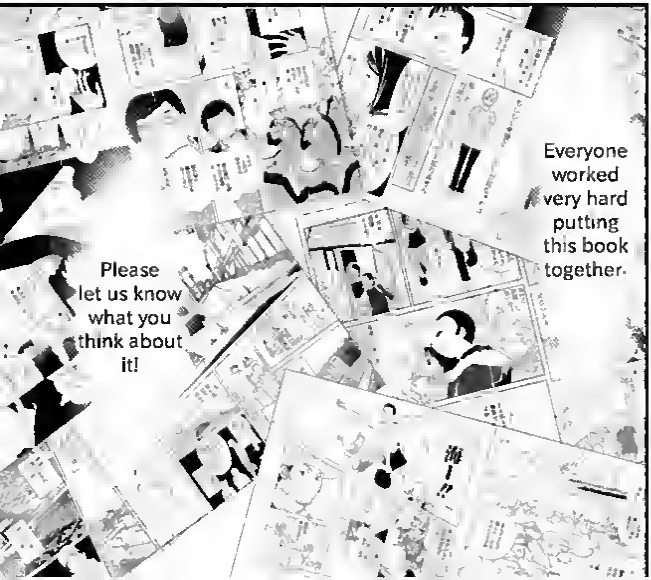

At the suggestion of my friend who now works in the project office, I started up a project with other manga artists I knew well,
and through trial and error, we put in our best efforts to manage the project, gather stories, and promote the manga
This book, "Stories from 311, 3 Years Since That Day"...
...is the second in its series, published in March, 2013.

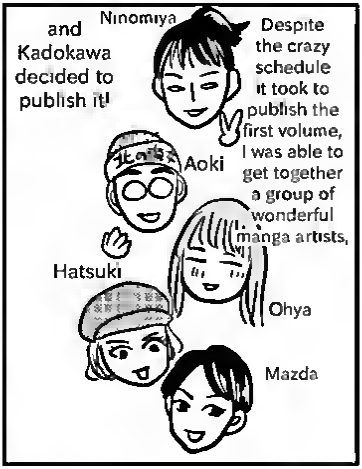

I wonder...
...if this is even necessary for the Tohoku region...
First I'll have to get funding for the project.. And I'm not even sure if the manga artists will get together again...
I wanted to publish a second book, like many fans, and we, hoped, but...
With the help of many people, we were able to publish the first book with good reviews,
but creating a manga renowned all over the country really took a toll on us financially and physically.


On top of that, the investments reached a figure that would allow me to produce it overseas, just like I had hoped for!
Wow! I had reached my target figure in no time at all!

After carefully trying it out...
Around that time, one of the staff members at my office suggested that I try crowdfunding.


2013, Dec 24th, 1 14pm
hoping it turns out great.
Dec 20th, 8 44pm
Although I can only give so
think manga is a great way to tell the
but I was moved
to tears by all of
your encouraging
comments, and it
really gave me
strength.
Thank you.
Thank you
all so very
much.
to reading the
2013, Dec 19th, 4 19pm
The first book was amazing, and I'm sure the second one will be even better!
The first volume not because of the plan it was really
I felt so many emotions about the stories of these people,
I'm looking forward to reading the second volume!
Kawamoto 20 11 28pm
I'm really
do your best
Of course
I was incredibly
moved by all of
your precious
contributions,
I had never heard before.
Dec 20th, 5 45am
It's not the smallest amount of money, so I
thought long and hard about it until the last day
Was also a bonus. I'm hoping you can use my
money
I'm cheering for you! Do your best to make it happ


Everyone worked very hard putting this book together.
Please let us know what you think about it!


Ninomiya and Kadokawa decided to publish it!
Despite the crazy schedule it took to publish the first volume, I was able to get together a group of wonderful manga artists,
Aoki
Hatsuki
Ohya
Mazda

Story 1

Riho Sachimi

Tomioka-machi, Fukushima

Why aren't we allowed to leave...
Reprimanded...
Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant
March 2011
TEPCO left more than 50 people at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and temporarily evacuated everyone else.
The prime minister, Naoto Kan, was enraged by this, and reprimanded TEPCO for it...
Everybody worked themselves to exhaustion...
...but are we still supposed to keep working?
Watch where you're going! There's a huge crack in the ground over there!
Can we get another man over here!?
Pull that!

That day, Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant also suffered from the tsunami,
and was in critical condition.
They went into the radiated waters with rubber pants, aiming to fix the many damaged areas of the plant.
Miraculously, they were able to connect a 9km cable to the only power source they could find
Amidst the darkness and aftershocks from the earthquake, workers were fumbling about the motors trying to remove them.
A special team was recruited to go to the most dangerous place.
I'll go!
I'm going too!
Me too.
You're from Osaka, aren't you!? Go home to mommy and daddy and don't come back!
Go on, get out of here! You're not even from Fukushima!
What's with you, Higuchi? I thought you were off duty today?
No! I'm not going to let some 20-year-old go!

Today is... What's the date today?
I know what you mean
Ahh... I'd love to sleep on a futon...
The only rations we have left are crackers.
I'm starving ...
I'm so dirty. My hands are pitch black.
Ha-ha...
How long has it been since we've had a bath?
I wonder how the...
...Daiichi plant is faring...
There was news on the radio day after day...
...about explosions at the Daiichi plant and the mass disorder in town

You're still only 19, aren't you?
Yoshikawa...
I wonder if Higuchi... he's in Osaka right about now...
He was almost in tears after everyone made him leave.
Aizawa, you should go home, too.
...go home to see your parents again...
You young boys should...
There ain't no telling how this power plant will turn out.
My dad... ...is at the Daiichi nuclear plant.
I don't know if he's even alive or not.
We can't get in contact with them.
But even in that whole big mess, I'm sure everyone's grittin' their teeth and standing their ground.

We drank contaminated water,
and slept on the freezing floor each night.
I won't...
give up...
We should get all those bastards from TEPCO and have them and their families killed by radiation poisoning
While not getting a single lick of information,
only cell phones told us what everyone was saying.
Why did we all work so hard...?
When not even a single person...
...got a single word of praise.
Why...
We're already dying from radiation!

Yoshi-kawa!
Higuchi is...
...to protect our families?
Or are we doing it...
For our country? For Fukushima?
I brought back some food.
I thought he went back to Osaka!
You idiot!
I thought I told you to never come back here!
Food!
I brought lots of food with me!

Everyone could... give it their all again.
So I thought if we had something like this, everyone could...
Everyone was eating nothing except biscuits every day.
I-I have some cup ramen, pre-made curry, canned goods...
As you can see out here, even at the Daini Nuclear Power Plant, for three years since that day...
...they've been struggling night and day because of what happened.

December 2013
Even now the workers are putting up with a 2.5-hour commute each way.
They stay in shabby prefabricated houses,
and have to endure severe working conditions.
Dai Fujita, Tomiokamachi Volunteer Guide
We all suffered from the tsunami.
We don't have a grudge against TEPCO.
TEPCO workers kill yourselves plea
Even still, the way they're being treated by the rest of the country
is as cruel as ever...
Everyone in Fukushima should die
No one has committed suicide yet?
I threw garbage at a Tokyo Electric employee's kid lol
There are a lot of workers who can't bear the hurtful words and just end up quitting.
We told ourselves to be careful, and to not give in to all the criticism.
Don't give up...
Don't give up...

At this rate, we'll lose our best men,
and the convergent operations will be suspended.
Don't give up!
We have to straighten out the treatment of these workers as soon as possible.
Appreciate FUKUSHIMA Workers
Representative Mr. Akihiro Yoshikawa
Quit working for TEPCO and is now working to help improve the status of its workers
To those who men who are still working, even one word of sympathy helps...
you guys, the ones that stayed behind to help, are the brave ones..
No matter what anyone says,
Don't give up...
You have to understand what they're going through.
You are heroes!
Give them encouragement...

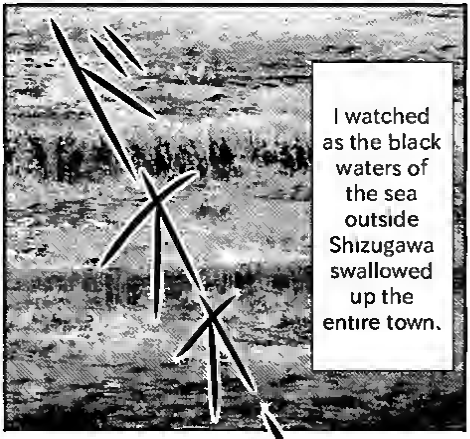
Story 2

Keiko Okamoto

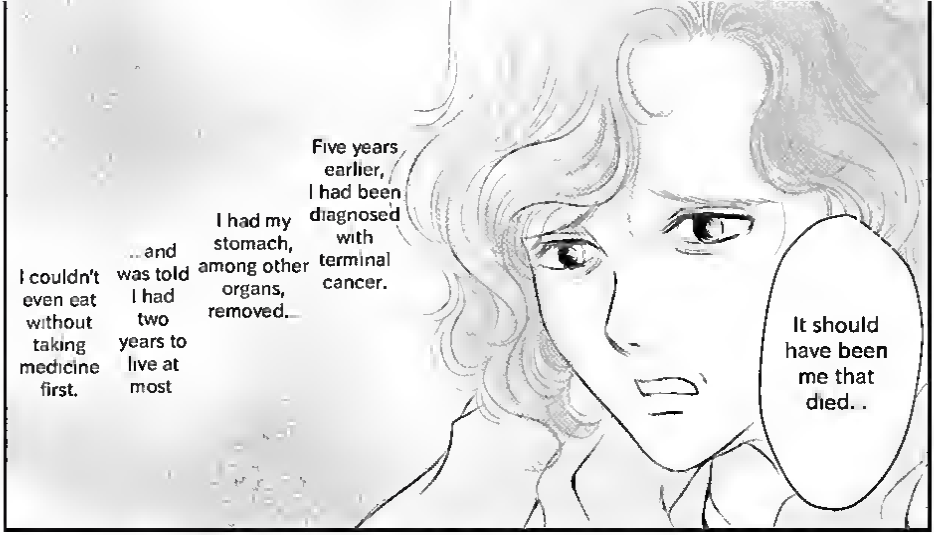
Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi

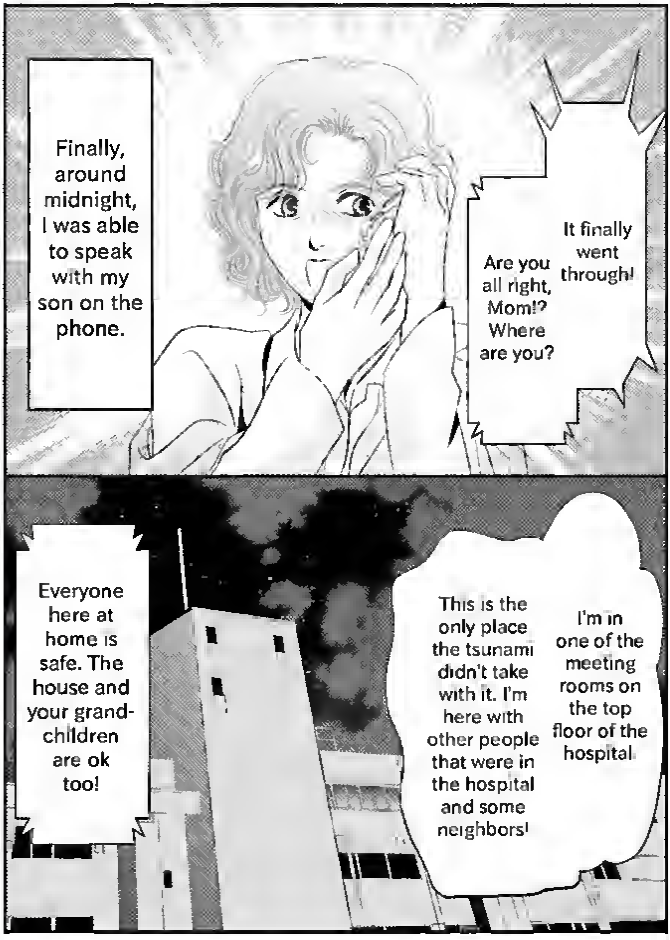
That day, on March 11th, I was in the hospital receiving a blood transfusion for my cancer when the tsunami hit.
I stayed up all night with the other survivors on the fifth floor of the hospital.
Resident of Iriya area, Minamisanriku, Ms. Mieko Matsuno.

My father was actually in one of the hospital beds that got washed away.


I watched as the black waters of the sea outside Shizugawa swallowed up the entire town.

I even made eye contact with a young woman in her car hanging on for dear life.
Completely helpless, she too was swallowed up by the black wave.

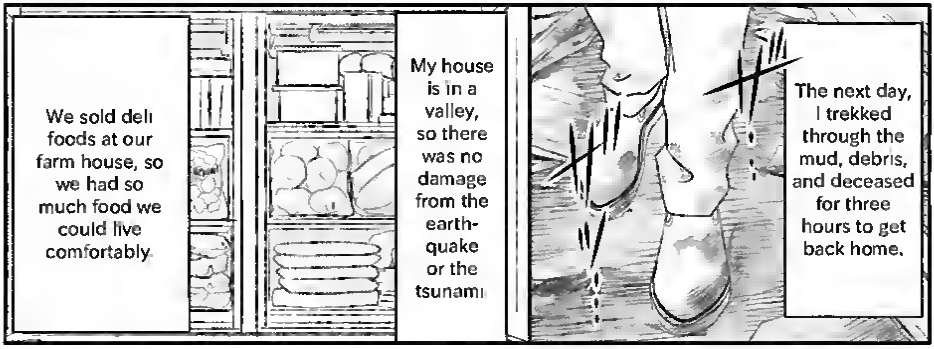

Five years earlier, I had been diagnosed with terminal cancer.
I had my stomach, among other organs, removed...
...and was told I had two years to live at most
I couldn't even eat without taking medicine first.
It should have been me that died..

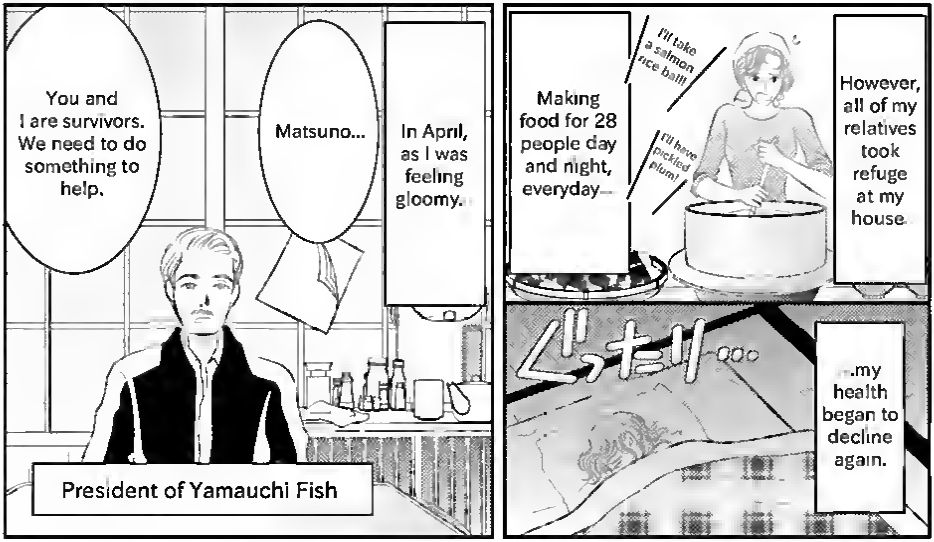

Finally, around midnight, I was able to speak with my son on the phone.
Are you all right, Mom!? Where are you?
It finally went through!
Everyone here at home is safe. The house and your grand-children are ok too!
This is the only place the tsunami didn't take with it. I'm here with other people that were in the hospital and some neighbors!
I'm in one of the meeting rooms on the top floor of the hospital.

I would have been much happier to see those who are young and healthy survive instead of me...
I was in such a dark place. Just when I thought I'd lost all hope...
R R R R R R

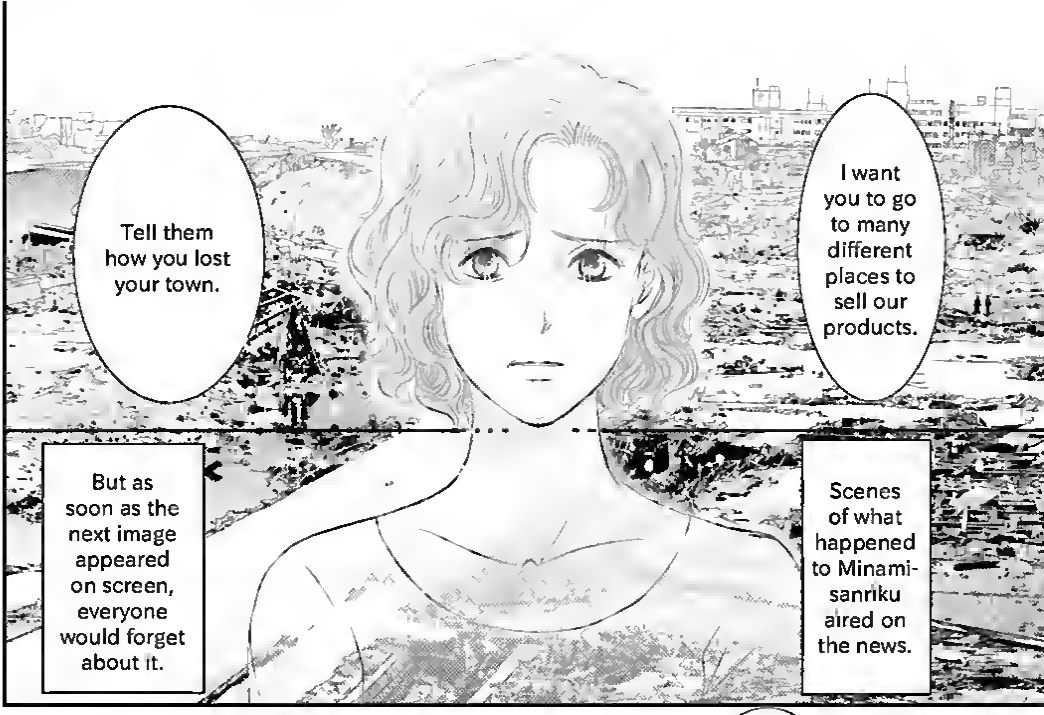
Okay...
We're just waiting for you, Mom, so stay safe.
I was handed a single rice cracker and ice cube.
Splitting it up between everyone leaves you with just this.
Ms. Matsuno, here.. This was left over in the conference room freezer.

that rice cracker and ice cube helped me hang on to my life.
For that 24 hours before I was rescued,
How delicious ...

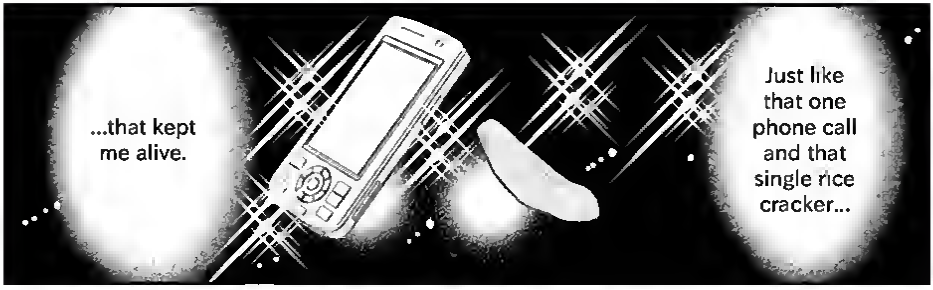

We sold deli foods at our farm house, so we had so much food we could live comfortably.
My house is in a valley, so there was no damage from the earth-quake or the tsunami.
The next day, I trekked through the mud, debris, and deceased for three hours to get back home.

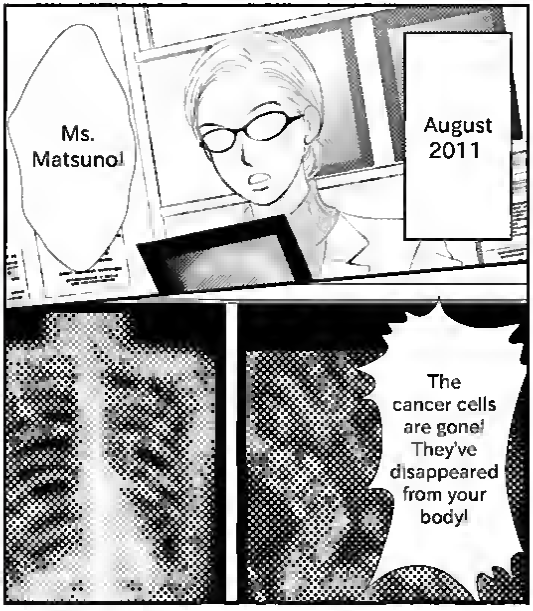

You and I are survivors. We need to do something to help.
Matsuno...
In April, as I was feeling gloomy.
President of Yamauchi Fish
Making food for 28 people day and night, everyday...
I'll take a salmon rice ball!
I'll have pickled plum!
However, all of my relatives took refuge at my house.
...my health began to decline again.

What could someone like me,
who had only two years to live, do for everyone else?
Something I can do...
Like selling nice bowls with sea urchins or clams?
That's it!
..at talking to people!
Also, no one is as good as me...
The man who often helped me in my business told me I should hold an event.
Since we survived, we have a duty to others, don't you think?
A village in Yamagata heard what a hit it was and invited me to hold an event there.
I had a talk with our village mayor.
You're not fit to stay in this small town.
On April 29th, with the help of volunteers from the affected areas, we held a special market to support re-construction.*
*This special market is known as "Fukko ichi"

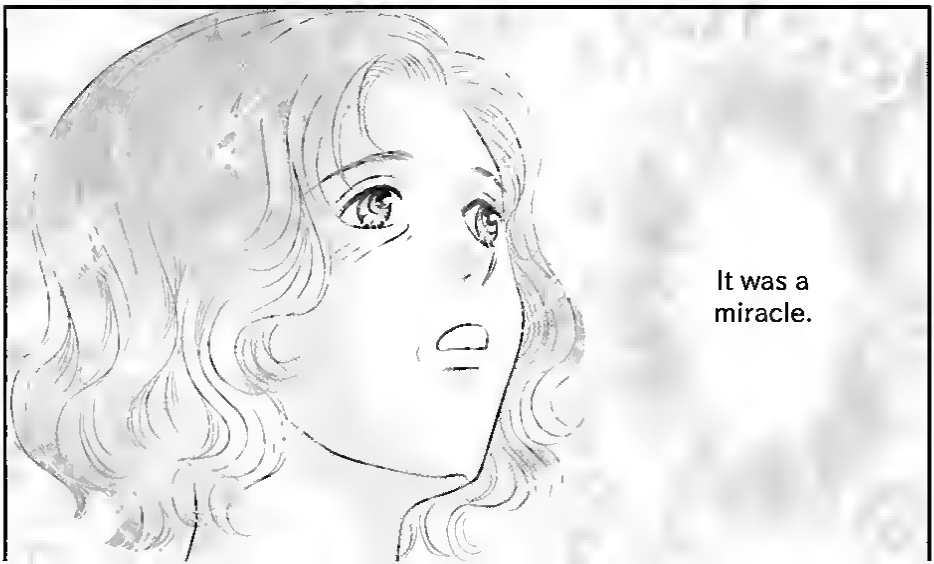

Tell them how you lost your town.
I want you to go to many different places to sell our products.
But as soon as the next image appeared on screen, everyone would forget about it.
Scenes of what happened to Minamisanriku aired on the news.

...connecting with people in person...
Let's get in line.
That old woman seems real lively, huh?
It's the best-tasting in the world!
Hey! I've got Minamisanriku special seasoned rice here!
But...
...and giving them food for their souls...
I'll definitely try it again sometime!
That was the first time I've eaten Hatto soup!
but give my change to the relief fund.
It may not be much,
... having conversation with them,
...let us grow together on a much deeper level.


...that kept me alive.
Just like that one phone call and that single rice cracker...


Ms. Matsuno!
August 2011
The cancer cells are gone! They've disappeared from your body!

The event eventually spread throughout the country.
...and I told people about the earthquake damages and was interviewed about my experiences
I was even busier than before.
That's right, I should get a check-up!
You have to remember you're still sick, though.


It was a miracle.

I still have work to do.
Even though the cancer was gone, I still took my medicine and I still became sick easily.
Then...
...with some other women who were living in temporary housing because they lost their houses and jobs, we opened a community kitchen.
A place where you can take off your shoes, come in and rest. A place where you can taste fresh food from the sea and the mountains.
It was a place made for everyone.
With the help of donations from many people, Matsunoya, Farmer's & Fisherman's Restaurant..
was opened in January, 2014 ..
Now we can become closer to people,
their dreams, and the future.
Matsunoya, Farmer's & Fisherman's Restaurant
Open from 10 am to 3 pm except on Wednesdays
Tel 0226-46-4986

Thank you very much for the Hatto soup!
I could probably write a whole manga on Ms. Matsuno and her mother-in-law's conversations!
She also likes manga very much!
She makes everyone laugh on various topics
This is the bright and cheerful Ms. Matsuno!

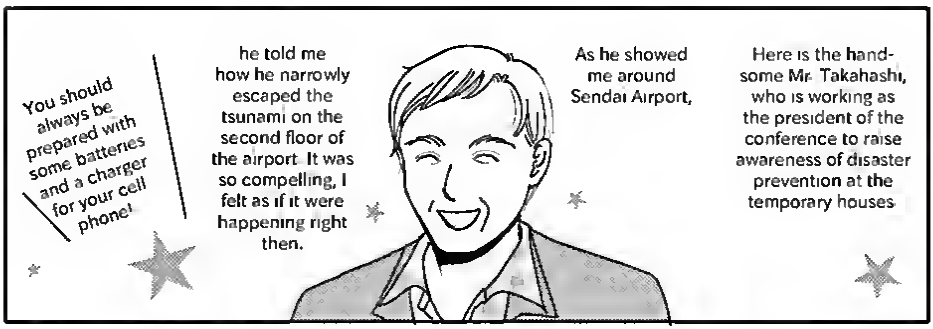
Ms. Matsuno, who allowed us to interview her for this manga, had her stomach and some other organs removed due to her cancer. To this day, she still can't eat without her medicine, and her health is fragile. However, she's such a cheerful, fun, and powerful woman that you'd never guess she was sick if she didn't tell you.

Anyone can be taken in by her bright kindness, and people from all over the country were They connected, and when they had enough donations, they opened a collaborative restaurant with other victims of the tsunami in January, 2014. Apparently, coming from a family who sold deli foods, it was Ms. Matsuno's dream to open a restaurant ever since she married into a farming family. Ms. Matsuno, even after going through a severe sickness and experiencing a tragic tsunami, finally achieved her dream. I urge everyone to go to Minamisanriku, and eat, laugh, and listen.

Also, I interviewed Mr. Takahashi, another tsunami victim who lives in the Kitagama area near Sendai Airport. Unfortunately due to having limited pages I was not able to write this manga on him, but he did tell me a lot about crisis situations and practicing evacuation. There had not been a big tsunami to hit the Kitagama area for more than 800 years, so in the Sendai Plain, many people who didn't think one would come didn't make it out in time. He taught me the importance of passing down history for the next 1000 years.

Ms. Matsuno and Mr. Takahashi both talked about a very serious situation, but they never forgot their sense of humor, and smiled and laughed a lot. Even three years after what happened, I strongly felt that sharing the stories of the kind, strong people from the affected areas and their ways of life was the key to calling for lasting support for the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Everybody, thank you so very much!


You should always be prepared with some batteries and a charger for your cell phone!
he told me how he narrowly escaped the tsunami on the second floor of the airport. It was so compelling, I felt as if it were happening right then.
As he showed me around Sendai Airport,
Here is the handsome Mr. Takahashi, who is working as the president of the conference to raise awareness of disaster prevention at the temporary houses

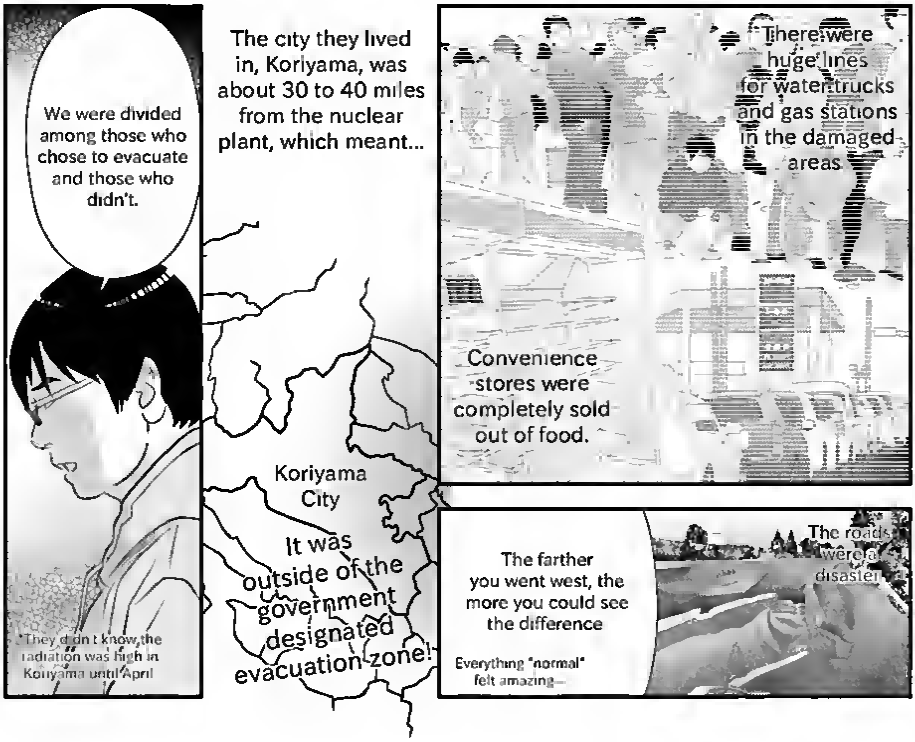
Story 3

Kyo Hatsuki

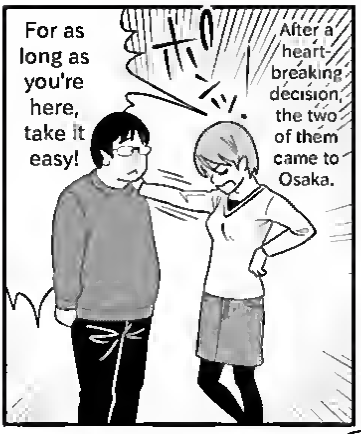
Fukushima & Osaka

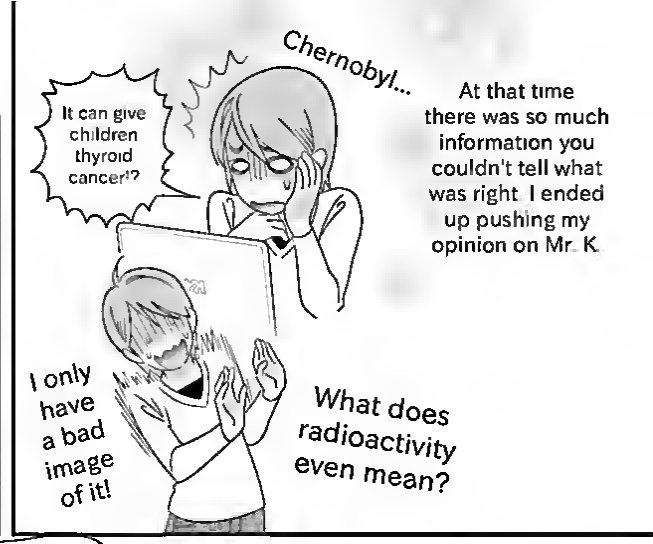
On March 15th, 2011, Mr. and Mrs. K voluntarily relocated to Osaka from Koriyama, Fukushima.
Osaka seemed like a foreign country.
Gas stations were in business as usual, and people were walking around like normal. It was like a completely different world.
Sigh...
It took us 15 hours to get here by car
Mrs K
Mr. K Office worker from Fukushima Prefecture.

The story of 3.11 from Osaka by Kyo Hatsuki

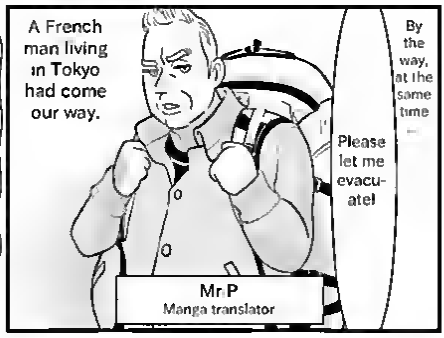

We were divided among those who chose to evacuate and those who didn't.
They didn't know the radiation was high in Koriyama until April
The city they lived in, Koriyama, was about 30 to 40 miles from the nuclear plant, which meant...
Koriyama City
It was outside of the government designated evacuation zone!
There were huge lines for water trucks and gas stations in the damaged areas
Convenience stores were completely sold out of food.
The farther you went west, the more you could see the difference
Everything "normal" felt amazing—
The roads were a disaster!

March 14th
There are so many foreign TV stations here...
As I waited to get water from a relief truck in the drizzling rain...
キョロ
キョロ
Hmm
The foreigners that were just here left all of a sudden!?
Apparently, the level of radiation in that area were high
The people there had no way of knowing about it.
I was exposed a lot, too...
Those foreign media companies should have told everyone about it!!
It's not fair!
Either way, we didn't know what was going on, and we were scared.
But where can we evacuate to!?
What about a friend's house?
I want to protect my home.
Was it really okay for just us to evacuate?
We have to evacuate as far away as possible
Amidst my struggles, a single text message from Kyo helped push me forward.
It's not only your problem. What are you going to do when your baby is born?
Anyways, come to Osaka!
Come to think of it, it wasn't a very nice message for the people of Fukushima. (Sorry)
PL AN
Married.in.2010,
Three years later, a baby!

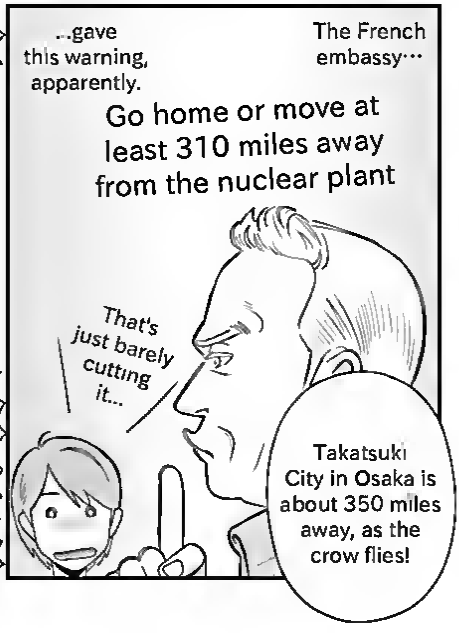

For as long as you're here, take it easy!
After a heart-breaking decision, the two of them came to Osaka.


Chernobyl...
It can give children thyroid cancer!?
I only have a bad image of it!
What does radioactivity even mean?
At that time there was so much information you couldn't tell what was right. I ended up pushing my opinion on Mr. K.

If I go back to France, I won't be able to see all these hero shows and anime!
The government has chartered a jumbo jet for the French in Japan, but...
Mr. P really likes Japanese subculture
I don't want to leave!!

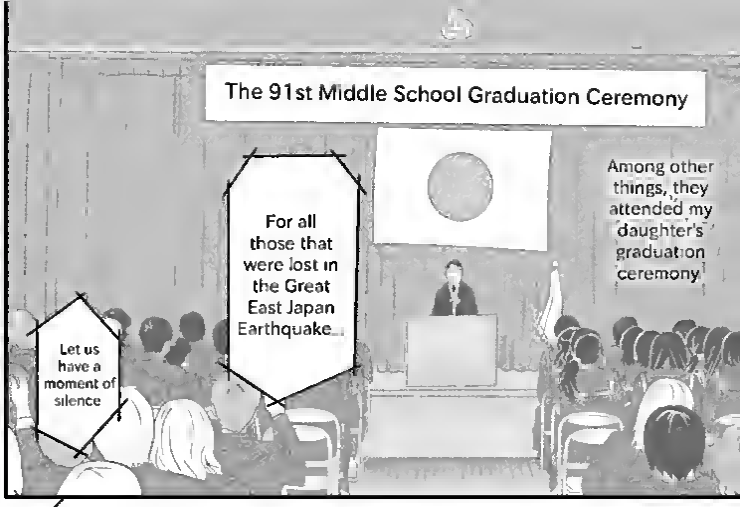

A French man living in Tokyo had come our way.
By the way, at the same time...
Please let me evacuate!
Mr P
Manga translator

Each country has different rules...
They're saying on Twitter that the American military men need to be 40 miles away from the plant.


...gave this warning, apparently.
The French embassy…
Go home or move at least 310 miles away from the nuclear plant
That's just barely cutting it...
Takatsuki City in Osaka is about 350 miles away, as the crow flies!

Why is it 20 miles for Japanese!? It's the shortest!
Why do you care about that!?

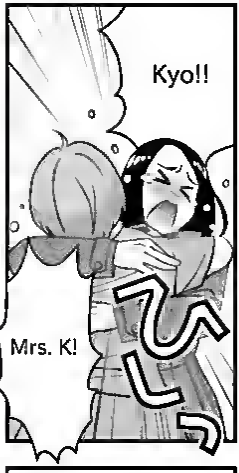
Mr. P had a friend working for the IAEA* and was getting information through his computer.
This is a network called SPEEDI that can estimate the radioactivity of materials and radiation density of the air in an emergency situation.
Fukushima Daiichi power plant looks like it's going to meltdown
*International Atomic Energy Agency
Oddly enough, we were getting the latest information from Mr. P...
...faster than the news
It's because of the Japanese government...
I don't know what's true and what's not.
All this info is getting so complicated.
While all that was going on...
...the one thing that lifted Mr. and Mrs. K's spirits was
POUR PIERRE
はぁはぁ
ふぅ!!
I have them for GTO and Evangelion as well
It's my most treasured item!
A manga artist's signature and a drawing!
スゲー!!
I just so happened to bring them
We went to Ise Grand Shrine and prayed for the restoration of Fukushima
Please restore Fukushima as soon as possible
I've read this manga before!


The 91st Middle School Graduation Ceremony
Among other things, they attended my daughter's graduation ceremony
For all those that were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake...
Let us have a moment of silence

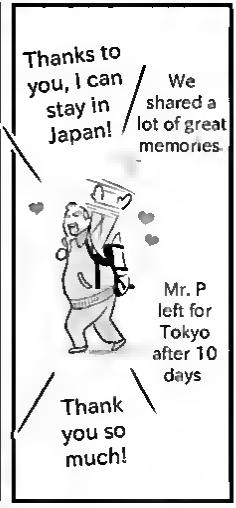
There are just so many nice people...
Huh? Well... I'm just so happy other people are gathering donations for us, I couldn't help myself.

You're the nicest of them all, Mr. K...

Wait!!
You guys don't have to make donations!
Here ya go!
Please make a donation for the people of north eastern Japan!


Kyo!!
Mrs. K!

Thanks for taking care of us
Mrs. K, Mr. K, take care okay?
Mr. and Mrs. K left for Fukushima after two weeks.
You take care too, Kyo.


Thanks to you, I can stay in Japan!
We shared a lot of great memories.
Mr. P left for Tokyo after 10 days
Thank you so much!

He held a manga event in Fukushima called "The Power of Manga" to help restore the affected areas.

After that, Mr K ..

Holding that manga artist's signature then...

.. gave me the strength to push on!

He sure sounds fine!

Wow!

And even now he opens exhibits in many places in Fukushima.

He received a lot of messages and signatures from a bunch of manga artists

It made me happy to see Mr K back in Fukushima and working hard.

Yes

Yes

But not everything was so peachy

Not everyone was so happy about them evacuating to Osaka.

"I thought I might not be able to fit back in.."

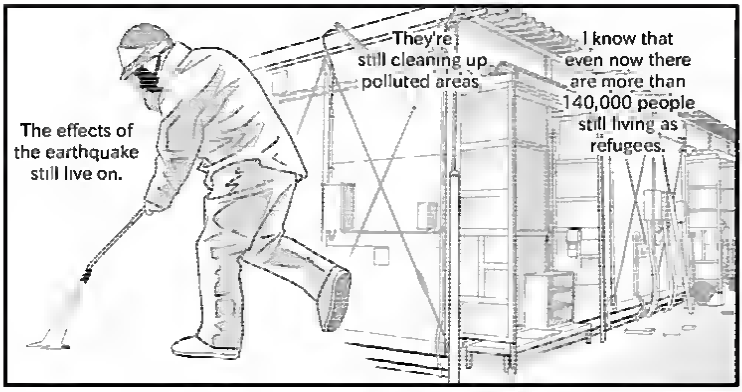
"I wanted to evacuate, but the thought of everyone's reaction when I came back was terrifying..."

"Must be nice to have a place to evacuate to."

That's right. Mr. and Mrs. K lived everyday in guilt.

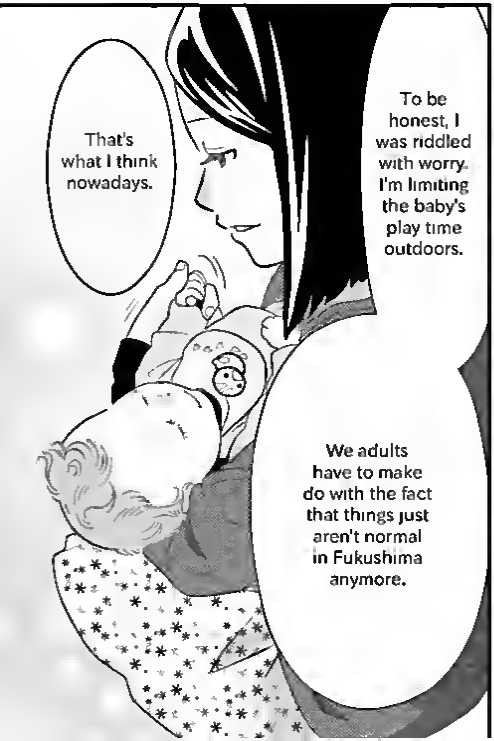
Maybe it wasn't such a good idea to evacuate on our own ..

Yeah

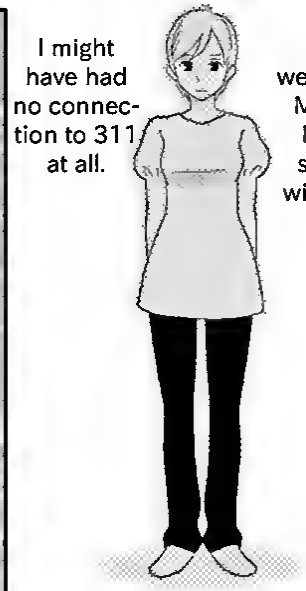

The effects of the earthquake still live on.
They're still cleaning up polluted areas.
I know that even now there are more than 140,000 people still living as refugees.

If you weren't going through it, you just couldn't comprehend it.

Respecting that idea, I'd like to think that what we did was the right thing for us
It's hard to know what the truth is, but everyone has their own values and opinions.
It's hard to leave, just as it is hard to come back.
It's hard for people to know when they should come back after evacuating


That's what I think nowadays.
To be honest, I was riddled with worry. I'm limiting the baby's play time outdoors.
We adults have to make do with the fact that things just aren't normal in Fukushima anymore.

Then, on October 11th, 2013, (the 11th again), the baby they were looking forward to was born



I might have had no connection to 311 at all.

If it weren't for Mr. and Mrs. K staying with me...

Children are the brightest ray of hope for our future.
It makes me think that everything is connected.
I want to be proud when I tell my child...
...that his parents struggled through these horrible times.
I'm devoting myself completely to raising this child here in this town.
...is a message I'd like to continue relaying to everyone about Fukushima, so they won't forget.
"This kind of thing really happened..."
I know it'd just be escaping reality, but I'd like to forget about the earthquake as soon as possible.
...what kind of bright, new future will this lovely young child bring...?
To these two parents with different views...

At that time, it seemed like Osaka was a big ship being rocked by a huge wave. I remember finding out what happened from the TV, and I couldn't concentrate on my work.

This time I went to Fukushima to interview Mr. and Mrs. K.

The first time I went was for their wedding, the second time was for their manga artist signing event, and the third time was to see Miharu Takizakura, an old famous cherry tree, making this the fourth time. The roads that were in shambles were fixed, and people walked the streets without masks. Mr. and Mrs. K were doing well, and so was their child. From a far off place like Osaka, it seemed like everything was back to normal. However, that was really just the people adapting to their situation, and the effects are still going on. There are more new problems in the area, especially now that time has passed.

"I want Fukushima to go back to the way it was before."

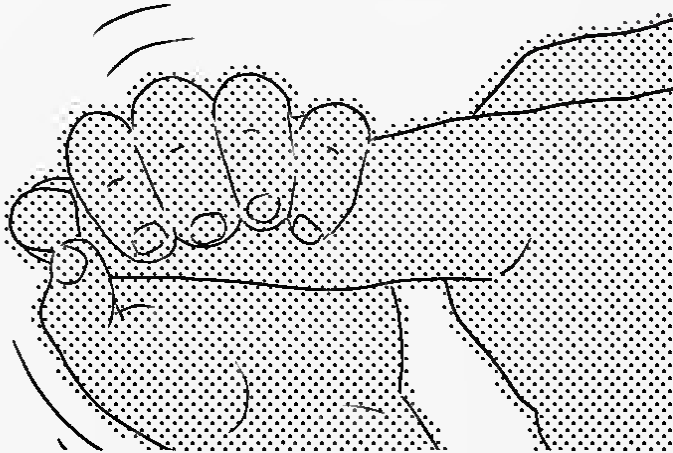
Many thoughts come and go within us, but in the same way that I cherish Osaka, everyone's hometown is important to them.

As I pray for Fukushima to be restored, I am very thankful for the chance to contribute to "Stories from 311."

I hope that many people read this book and make time to turn their thoughts to the people of northeastern Japan.

Kyo Hatsuki
January 21st, 2014

*I should explain about the figures and data in this manga. Along with the Twitter posts, some of the information and situations is inaccurate and/or exaggerated to capture the chaos of that time, where incorrect information was abundant. Please understand it is for narrative purposes only.



Story 4

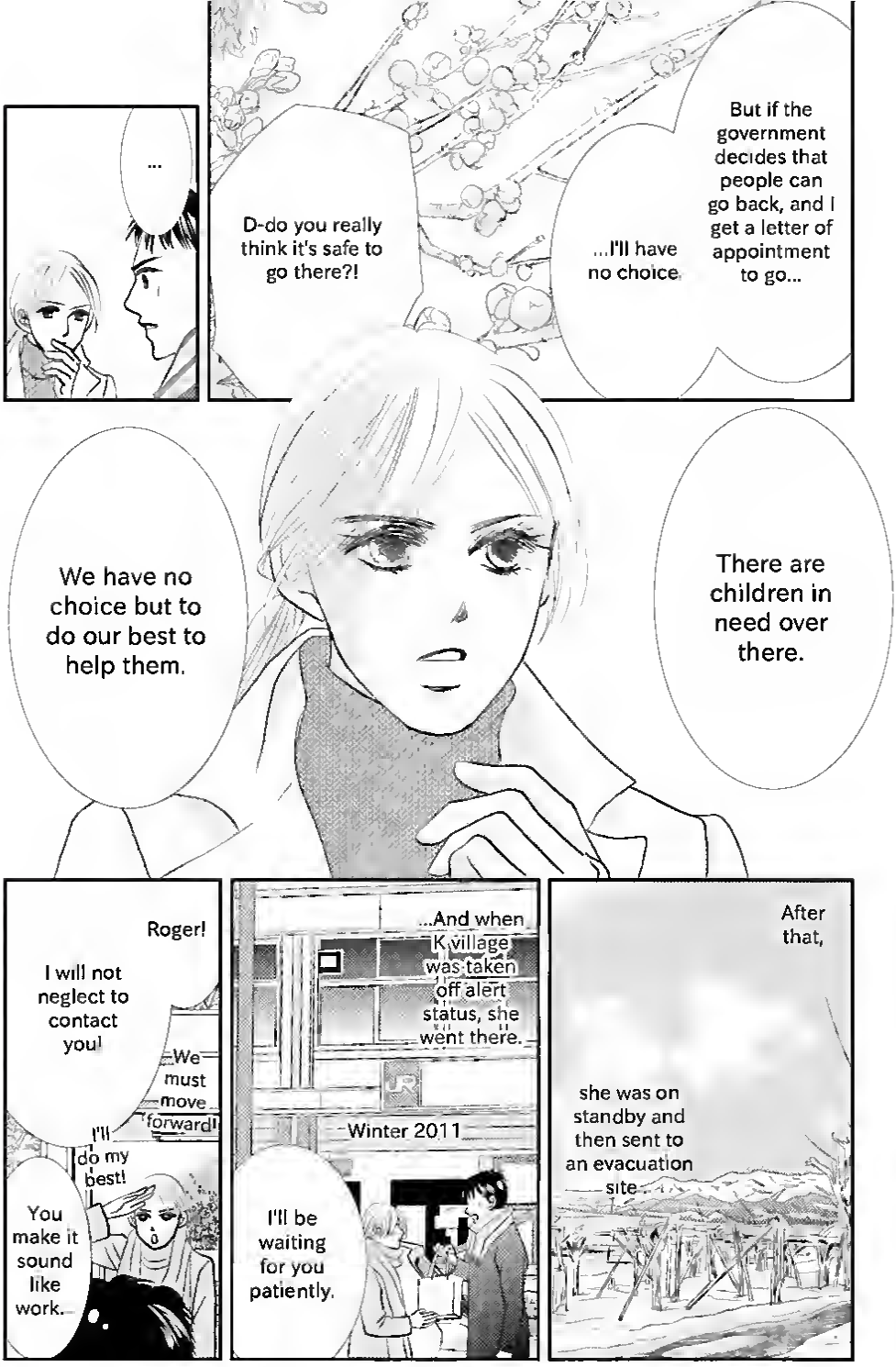
Satoru Hiura

Fukushima

The woman I like is kind, yet serious and cool.
She's an elementary school teacher in Fukushima.
No chance to get closer
Yes!
Mr. K, can you please help us here?
We were co-workers at the school I worked at before, so we were always seeing each other, but...
Hello? Mr. K? What's wrong?
What's wrong?! The earthquake! Are you all right?!
This is...! It's close to Ms. T's house...!
I still didn't have a full grasp on the situation
What on earth is happening...?
Oh my gosh ...
On March 11th, 2011...
Huh...?

...I brought some gasoline and water to Ms. T's house.
Ms. T's house
About 30 miles
My house
Well, I'm glad they're okay
Ah...
After that, because the damage in my area was relatively light...
Yeah! Me, my family, the students, we're all safe. How about you?
Good! Thanks for calling.
Well, I have to lead the kids, so I'm gonna go. Be careful over there!
I-I'm glad to hear that Everything is okay here!
Huh?
wait a second!
W-
I have to get going now!
My parents are very thankful!
Thank you so much!
...
...
But I just couldn't...
If you'd like to take a bath, please, be my guest.
It's fine, really! You don't know when you'll be able to take a bath at your place, right?
Ah, well...

For the first time...
While I was in the bathtub,
I thought to myself, "Just what am I doing?"
...
Thank you..
Around that time the dangers of the Daiichi nuclear power plant was all over the news.
But... I heard K village has been completely evacuated.
K village was designated as a danger zone.
Yes.
...?
What's with that reaction?
But I'm being relocated to K village in April, so...
What ...?
...I thought I wanted to protect this person.
... What ?
You want to go out with me?


...
D-do you really think it's safe to go there?!
...I'll have no choice.
But if the government decides that people can go back, and I get a letter of appointment to go...
We have no choice but to do our best to help them.
There are children in need over there.
Roger!
I will not neglect to contact you!
We must move forward!
I'll do my best!
You make it sound like work.
...And when K village was taken off alert status, she went there.
Winter 2011
I'll be waiting for you patiently.
After that,
she was on standby and then sent to an evacuation site.

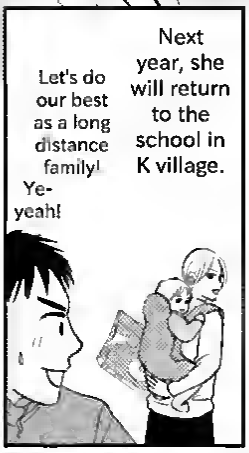
At first they refused to let their young daughter go near the nuclear site.
Haven't you been watching the news?!
The radiation has gone down, and above all, the children are returning!
Her father was also a teacher
At last, it was her father, also a teacher of 42 years, who pushed her forward.
Make sure you do a good job there.
I will!
Just when we started talking about marriage...
There's a manga here with my story written in it. If you'd like to, please read it.
Huh...?
- END -
We were about two hours apart.
They were very business-like texts...
...and almost all we talked about was work, but...
...and occasionally meeting in person.
But we made it through with texting, calling...
In the manga...
A manga?

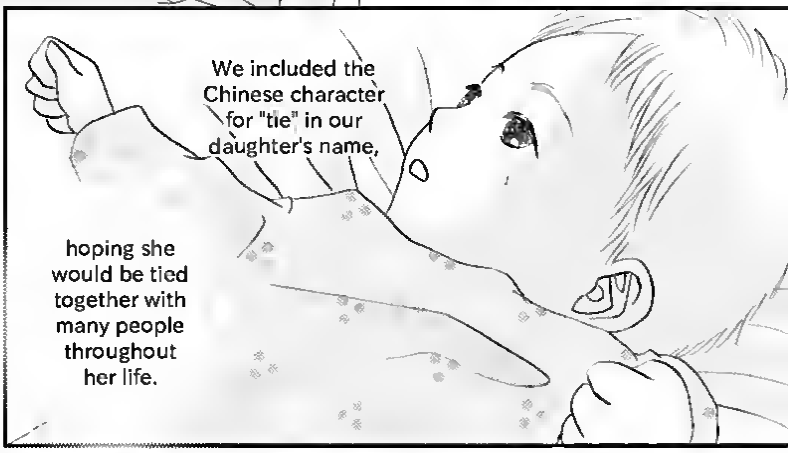
I'm sorry
I made you worry, saying that.
Yeah ...
It was confusing with all the information floating around at that time.
All I could do was focus on what was in front of me
...that my own life came second.
At that time, I really felt...
Things have calmed down a lot since then, so I don't feel quite that strongly anymore.
Yeah,
What about now?
...
...and you regret that you chose me, then I would feel bad marrying you...
...if it turns out that I couldn't bear children...
For whatever reason
...was something she never said to me before.
Let me ask you a personal question
After the events of 3.11, have your thoughts changed about having kids?
She spelled out her exact thoughts at the time.
Actually nothing at the moment
I'm not thinking of bearing children now

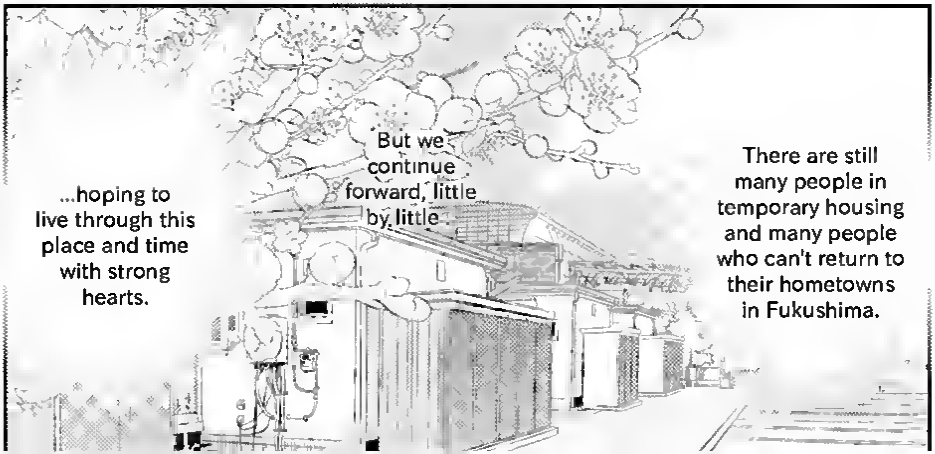
But because it did happen, a lot of people connected.
Many were able to move forward because of it.
Nobody knows what's going to happen, right?
Just like how nobody predicted this tragedy.
In this long life,
there's no telling what will happen, but...
As long as you're by my side...
...that's good enough for me.
Married March 2012

The dream that we were ready to wait on for a long time came true.
We were granted a child.
Born October 2013

For a while we had a long distance marriage,
but you'd never guess...
thought I was getting sick, but...
It didn't occur to you?


Next year, she will return to the school in K village.
Let's do our best as a long distance family!
Ye-yeah!


We included the Chinese character for "tie" in our daughter's name,
hoping she would be tied together with many people throughout her life.


...hoping to live through this place and time with strong hearts.
But we continue forward, little by little.
There are still many people in temporary housing and many people who can't return to their hometowns in Fukushima.

I'm sure a lot of you who read the first volume of "Stories from 311" may have noticed that this story is a continuation of the story I wrote about an elementary school teacher from Fukushima.

June 2012 was the first time I met with Ms. T, and I wrote about her in the first volume. But wanting to hear her story again, I went back in December of the same year. I wrote the details of that visit in the last page of my manga, and many readers said they were worried about Ms. T as they read, but were relieved to hear she married.

I wrote this story for those of you that were worried, and though it may be only a drop in the bucket, I wrote it to tell everyone about the current situation in Fukushima.

The interview took place in December 2013, but I couldn't figure out how to put such a hilarious, interesting, and charming story together.

I'm happy that I decided to deliver her story. I'm so glad that she's able to smile from the bottom of her heart now. But something she said stuck in my mind. She said she was in the middle of it all.

Thank you Ms. T for sharing your story! I hope to meet you again in Fukushima someday.

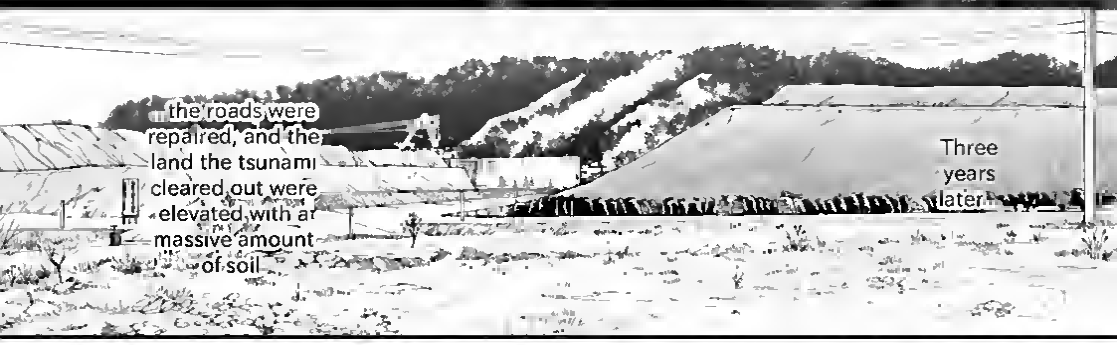
Story 5

Mayu Shinjo

Otsuchi-cho, Iwate

Otsuchi Station
A town with no liveliness, and its younger population leaving for bigger cities everyday
Otsuchi, a small fishing village comprised of about 15,000 people, and with it's economy on the edge of collapsing, was becoming desolate

The tsunami ravaged this town as well...


the roads were repaired, and the land the tsunami cleared out were elevated with a massive amount of soil
Three years later

One-third of it will be buried underground.
Elevate to here.
They're elevating all the low areas to 23 feet above sea level. Just look at the sign at this elementary school at high ground.

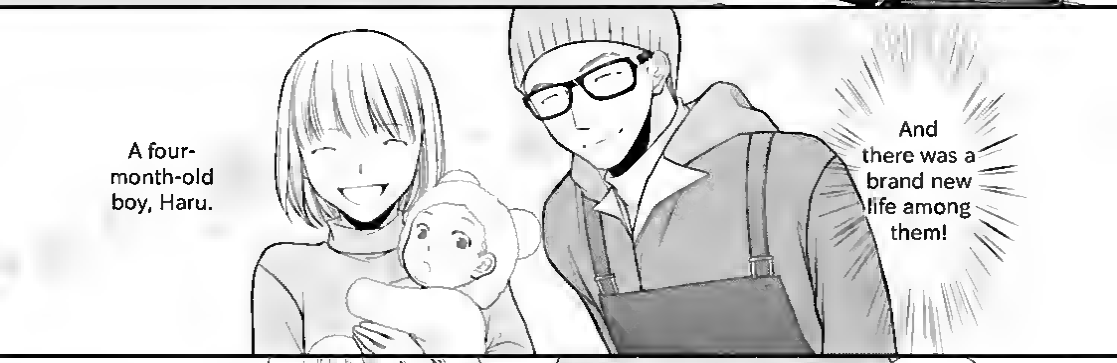
How does a town that lost everything turn out?

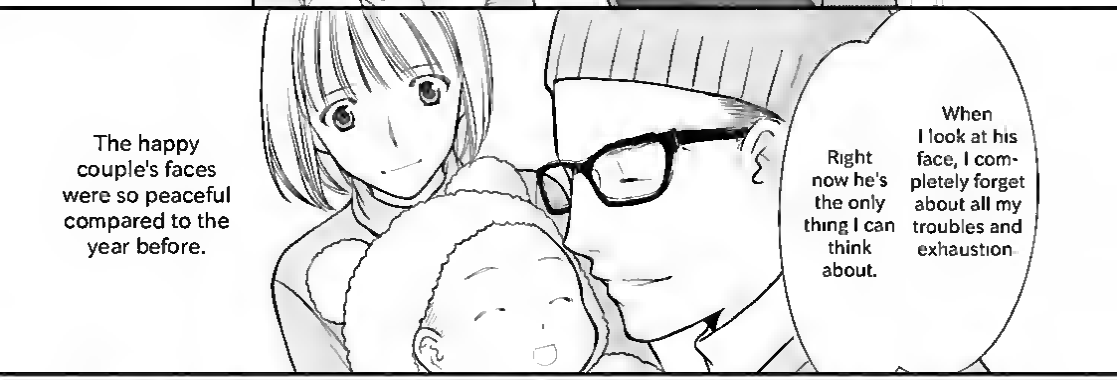
Shota Kimura, then 25 years old. Before the disaster, he worked at a hospital in Kamaishi making food.
Each day he simply put a specified amount of spices into a specified amount of food. He had neither motivation nor pride for his job.
He felt like this town was going nowhere.
This sucks...
I don't make enough money ...
He complained more and more, only ever voicing his dissatisfaction
He felt it was annoying to keep up with his old friends.
No thanks, not tonight.
We're going out drinking tonight, do you want to come?
Nevertheless, he didn't do anything about it, and never even thought to change his life.
He thought it would continue like that everyday...
He lead a dissipated life with no hopes or dreams...
...until that fateful day arrived.

Three years later...
Here is Mr. Kimura, now the owner and chef of an Italian restaurant in a disaster area. He rented a building and rennovated it.
How did the disaster affect Mr. Kimura?
Wow
This is a pizza made with local ingredients
The once dissipated and unmotivated Kimura was nowhere to be found.
I only lost my job, but I thought because I wasn't affected so badly I had to work.
As I cooked for everyone, I started to think it'd be nice to make a place where people could come together.
Before, I didn't even know what food this village was known for.
But now that I know so much about the foods of this village, I wanted other people to know, too.
Now I like to show up at gatherings with my friends.
At those gatherings, we talk about what we can do for the town.

I was actually surprised that such a zealous man used to be so unmotivated everday.
If that's the case, then I want to rebuild this village better than it ever was. Better than anywhere else!
This village was wiped down to nothing. We are the only ones who can restore it.
Now what do you think about Otsuchi?
...but after we lost everything, I realized how great this town is.
Before, this town was nothing to brag about
I could tell by his big smile that he wasn't acting tough or exaggerating.
Otsuchi is the best!

There were so many more boats than the year before! The catch of fish was bigger than before the earthquake
I went to the port to visit the Abe family that I interviewed for last year's book.


A four-month-old boy, Haru.
And there was a brand new life among them!


The happy couple's faces were so peaceful compared to the year before.
Right now he's the only thing I can think about.
When I look at his face, I completely forget about all my troubles and exhaustion

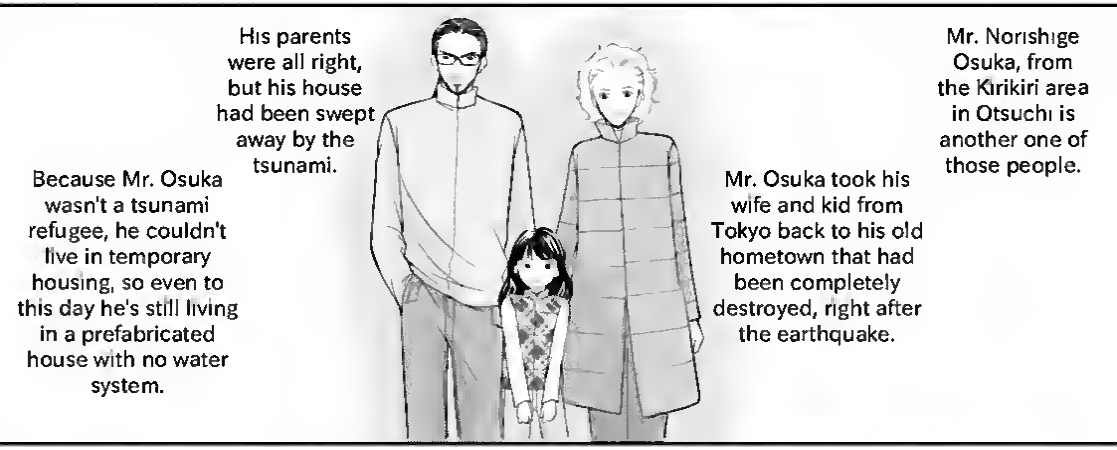
I want him to say his hometown, Otsuchi, is a wonderful place
I want to make this town a place he'll always want to come back to.
Even if this boy grows up and leaves Otsuchi,

Mr. Kimura and Mr. Abe are trying to make this town better for the children, giving it all they've got.

I'm gonna be a fisherman!

My dream is to become a teacher in this town!

I've heard that the children of the affected areas are doing well. I'm sure it's because they see how hard their parents are trying.



Because Mr. Osuka wasn't a tsunami refugee, he couldn't live in temporary housing, so even to this day he's still living in a prefabricated house with no water system.

His parents were all right, but his house had been swept away by the tsunami.

Mr. Osuka took his wife and kid from Tokyo back to his old hometown that had been completely destroyed, right after the earthquake.

Mr. Norishige Osuka, from the Kirikiri area in Otsuchi is another one of those people.

I had stopped by the place last year, but the building was again stripped down to a bare foundation. They were trying to raise this land up by 23 feet, too.

Being a musician, Mr. Osuka used scrap woods to build a cafe where his parents' house was. He named it "Ape." Plays his songs there.

I asked Mr. Osuka what his dreams were then.

...This town can become anything now.

We can make the Kirikiri area like it was in the good old days...

We can build this town from nothing, so we can use it as advantage.

It doesn't have to be a typical new town.

When our fathers were young, cows walked the streets.

Wouldn't it be nice... —to have a town like that?

The old, the young, everyone riding in carriages...

I think horse-drawn carriages rolling down the streets wouldn't be so bad.

This man... He came here with those thoughts from the very beginning. That's why he can stand up to these cruel conditions.

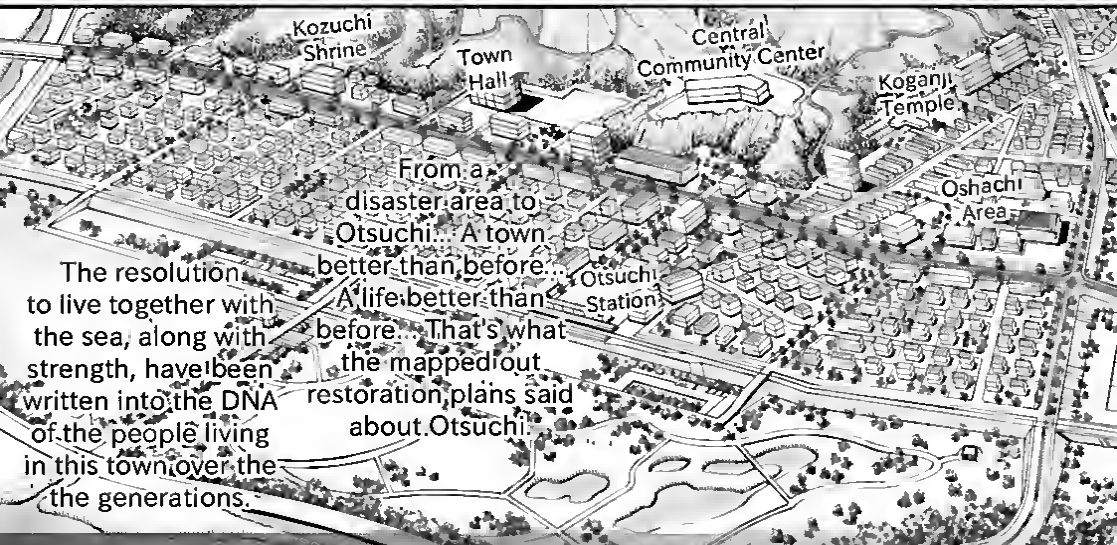
Mr. Osuka's facial expression was the same as the year before.

Everything... it's all up to our generation... The future of the town, the future of our children...

These people were able to take that and somehow keep going forward, and use it to start growing a great town, three years after that day.
This town, that was on the brink of collapse, got new roads and a lot of attention from all over Japan.
The earthquake took away things, but if you can't make do with the new things it has brought, you can't move forward.
You can't get back the things you've lost.

I felt that if the pluses outweigh the minuses inside someone, then that person's revival is complete.

Even with people saying that, I have found a four-leaf clover growing strongly in a vacant lot.
I feel that we have been treating this land gingerly for the past three years... "I don't want us to be known as victims. We don't need sympathy."
Sympathy... worry... sadness...


Kozuchi Shrine
Town Hall
Central Community Center
Koganji Temple
Oshachi Area
Otsuchi Station
From a disaster area to Otsuchi... A town better than before... A life better than before... That's what the mapped out restoration plans said about Otsuchi.
The resolution to live together with the sea, along with strength, have been written into the DNA of the people living in this town over the the generations.

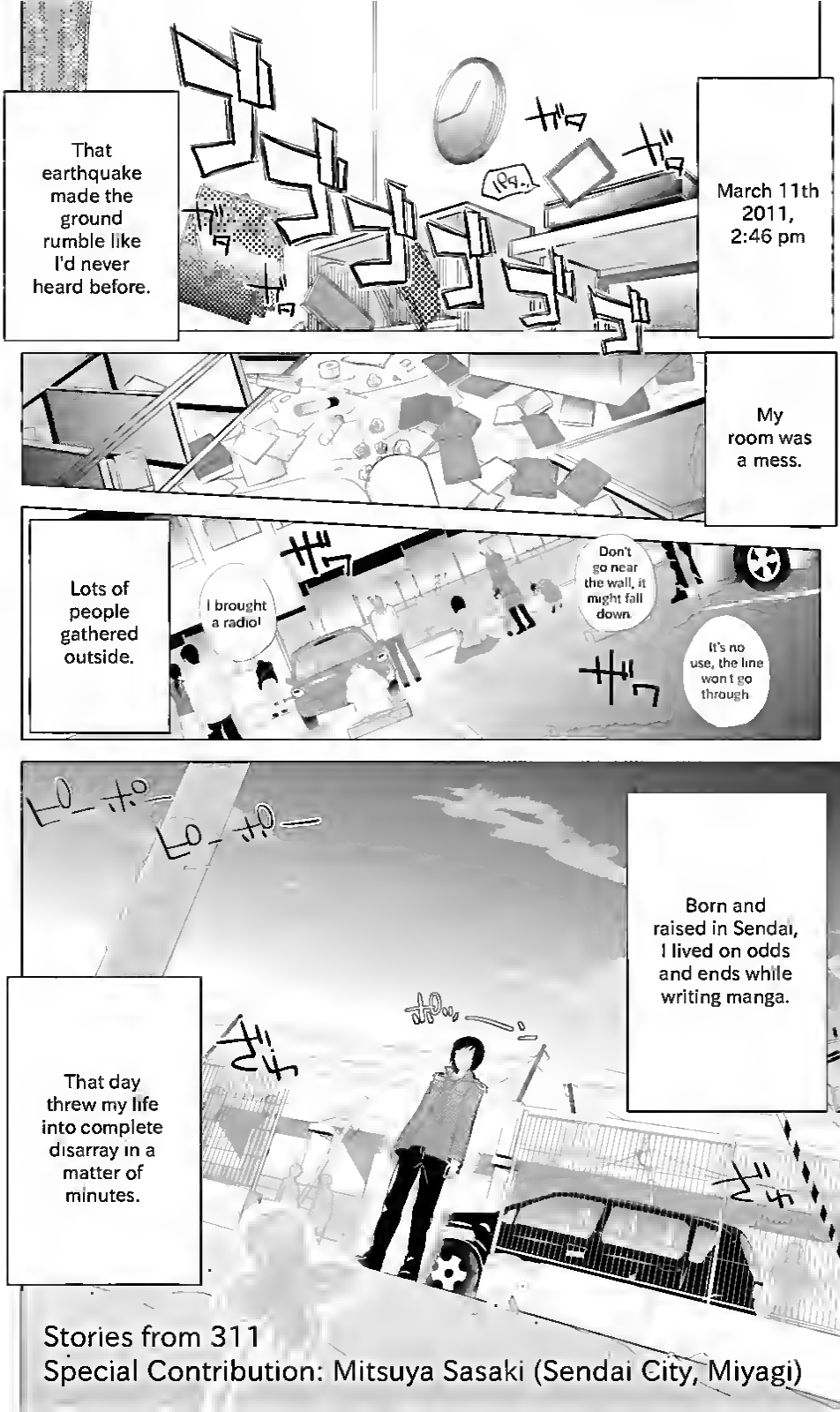
I want to continue to report on this town until it is back on its feet again. That is my wish.

The post script we shall call the editor's notes.

Again, I had a really, really hard time deciding what to keep. I can usually do about 30 pages in one week, but with this eight pages in two weeks! I took care in choosing each word.
I was able to interview the Abe family again.
The three people I interviewed are all residents of Otsuchi. Just like last time, I felt a great strength in the growth of Otsuchi.
It made me feel like I want to look over this town forever. Everyone was looking forward to a town even better than before. And they all are going forward, step by step. I'd love to see little Haru grow up in such positivity. I hope "Stories from 311" continues to be published then, too.

This time I chose to interview and write about three people. I don't think it's a real "story manga", though. If I had to call it something, I'd call it an illustration. But if calling it an illustration means that the message I want to convey becomes easier to read and understand, then I am fine with that. That's what I thought when I decided to write about the three of them.
At first, I thought of a different theme.
I thought of writing about how people like us, who have never experienced something like that before, could use earthquake safety. Then I talked to people think they wouldn't be able to use it. The time, the place, who you're with when earthquakes occur is completely different for everyone. They say we just happened to be lucky to survive.
Of course being prepared is always good, but I didn't feel it was necessary to write that in a manga when I went to the actual place. When I was doing all these interviews, "the things we gained from the earthquake" came up quite often. I felt like it expressed their ability to move forward after these three years. That place... You can't understand unless you see it for yourself. You have to hear their stories with your own ears. I don't care if it's years from now.
I want you to go see the reborn town of Otsuchi.

Mayu Shinjo


That earthquake made the ground rumble like I'd never heard before.
March 11th 2011, 2:46 pm
My room was a mess.
Lots of people gathered outside.
I brought a radio!
Don't go near the wall, it might fall down.
It's no use, the line won't go through.
That day threw my life into complete disarray in a matter of minutes.
Born and raised in Sendai, I lived on odds and ends while writing manga.

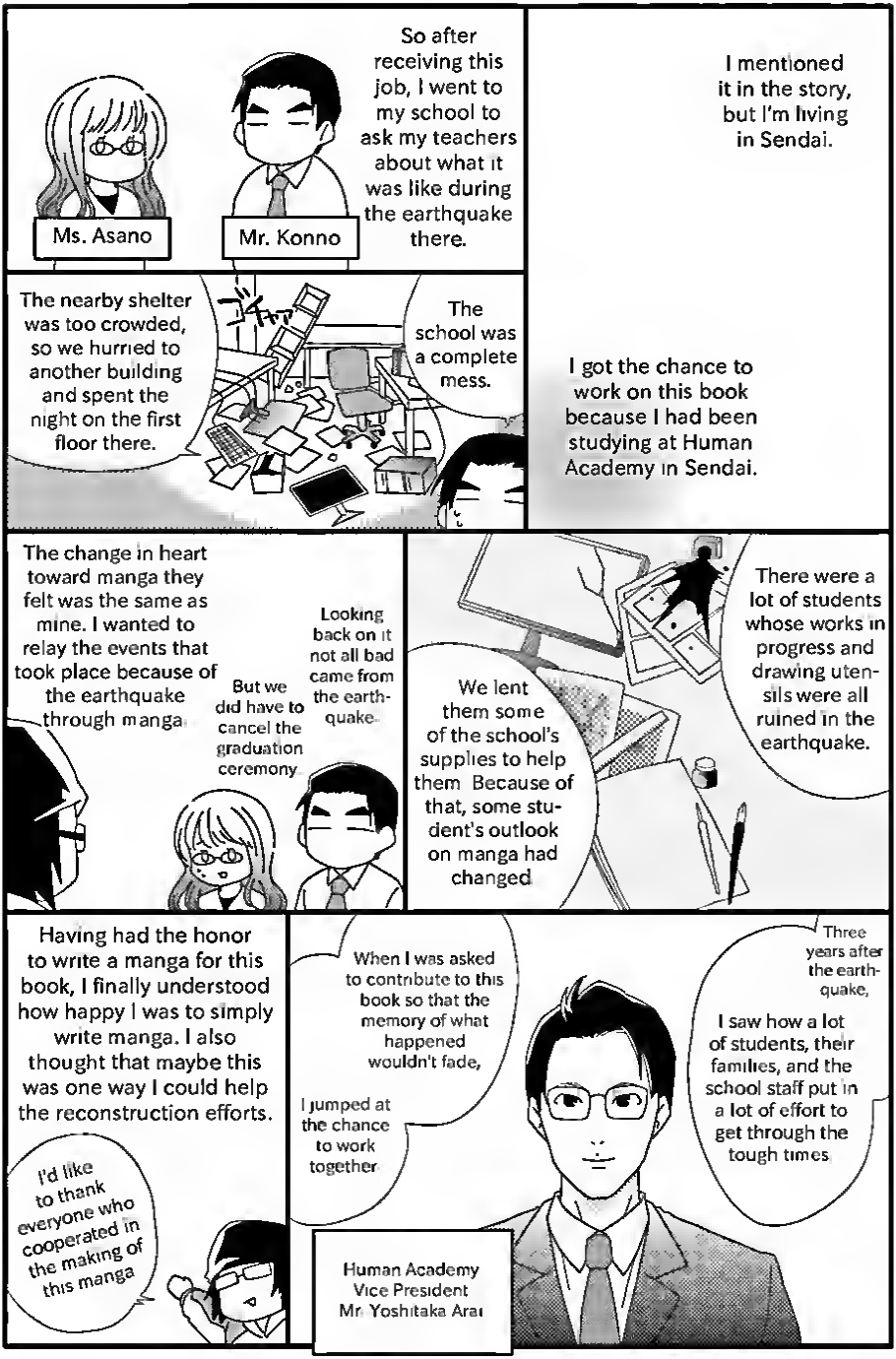
Stories from 311
Special Contribution: Mitsuya Sasaki (Sendai City, Miyagi)

Then that night, I finally realized how serious the situation was when I heard the news on the radio.
This is an announcement concerning the tsunami.
My house was a mess so we evacuated to my sister's car.
I found out where the epicenter was using my weak internet connection on my phone.
The coast of Miyagi?!
In the after-shocks of the earthquake I hadn't yet realized how serious the situation was.
This is bad...
My sister
I couldn't believe what I was hearing
Is this for real?
In the Wakabayashi ward on the Arahama coast, 200-300 bodies have been found.
!?
But I couldn't contact my friends or family that lived on the coast, and I was worried sick about them every day.
It's right next to the ocean
I hope Grandma's house is all right...
They'll be okay, I'm sure of it.
Everyone was okay!

As long as we had oil and batteries we were okay, so we treasured them.
An oil heater!!!!
We had no electricity, so this really came in handy.
Sendai was still cold in March, and it even snowed the day of the earthquake.
I should have been keeping my flashlight in an easily accessible place.
I couldn't find a flashlight anywhere...
I think the aroma candles had an effect...?
When it got dark, we got through the night with aromatherapy candles.
!?
If only we had filled the bath-tub with water right after the earthquake, we'd have been able to use the toilet more...
Toilet
Living this way, the most difficult thing was securing and saving water.
We flush the toilet once per day.
Good idea.
If you put plastic wrap on the plate you don't have to wash it.
Deep Regret
反省
Even if you have the knowledge, sometimes you just can't put it to use in emergency situations ...
The idea was in the back of my mind, but I panicked and forgot about it!!

Yes, of course! Everyone at my house is an adult, so...
Are you sure ?!
Neighborhood friend
I found some snacks at my house, so give them to your niece and nephew.
Here!
But it wasn't all bad...
Because of the situation we were in, I could feel the connection I had with other people and their kindness.
Huh...? You've gotten a little fat, haven't you?
I was sure...
Thank you!
Thank you!
Even the adults are stressed.
So I can only imagine how the kids feel, not being able to voice their feelings
...because no one ever really thought such a massive earthquake would come
You can really see the stars with no lights around
Even though we were told a great earthquake would come to this area, my family wasn't been prepared at all...

After time passes, the same thing might happen again.
That's right, I was usually drawing some-thing.
What was I usually doing at this hour...
I hope the day when I can draw again comes soon...
We might suffer from another earthquake.
I hope that this manga offers an opportunity to think about what you might do if you find yourself in the same situation.


Ms. Asano
Mr. Konno
So after receiving this job, I went to my school to ask my teachers about what it was like during the earthquake there.
I mentioned it in the story, but I'm living in Sendai.
The nearby shelter was too crowded, so we hurried to another building and spent the night on the first floor there.
The school was a complete mess.
I got the chance to work on this book because I had been studying at Human Academy in Sendai.
The change in heart toward manga they felt was the same as mine. I wanted to relay the events that took place because of the earthquake through manga.
But we did have to cancel the graduation ceremony.
Looking back on it not all bad came from the earthquake.
We lent them some of the school's supplies to help them. Because of that, some student's outlook on manga had changed.
There were a lot of students whose works in progress and drawing utensils were all ruined in the earthquake.
Having had the honor to write a manga for this book, I finally understood how happy I was to simply write manga. I also thought that maybe this was one way I could help the reconstruction efforts.
I'd like to thank everyone who cooperated in the making of this manga
When I was asked to contribute to this book so that the memory of what happened wouldn't fade,
I jumped at the chance to work together.
Three years after the earthquake,
I saw how a lot of students, their families, and the school staff put in a lot of effort to get through the tough times.
Human Academy
Vice President
Mr. Yoshitaka Arai

Story 6

Nagamu Nanaji

Miyako City, Miyagi

I had a dream.
But it was immature and vague.
Miyako, Iwate. Tamotsu Ito. Second-year high school student.
Tamotsu!
I was in what you would call...
Hey, listen, today...

I've been an honor student since I was young.
I was also good when it came to relation-ships.
My parents were busy with work, so my grand-mother raised me.
I liked playing with children.
...the middle of my "rebellious stage."
It was just a vague idea, but I thought I'd like to work a job where I was in direct contact with people.
Then...
...I started letting my grades fall, stopped listening to my parents.
I didn't even know why.
Dam-mit...
I started to hate myself.

It happened around that time.
There's a tsunami coming!
They said to get to the elementary school!
They say all that but it won't come.
Oh no! The water is rising!
It's coming up over the banks!
What!? This is a joke, right!?
We've got to move to higher ground!
I could see from Atago Elementary School straight down the road, about 1000 feet away.
The sea was there.
I could see it closing in.
We walked a long way to get to the nearest shelter at Sakiyama elementary school.
Waaaaaahhh!

What can I say to them?
What can someone like me do?
Ow...
It's okay...
The children...
they're such a wreck
Uwa-aaa!
Waaa!
My house that the sea destroyed...
...Our house...
...it was a gift from Grandpa no less...
Grand-ma...
...
Tamo-tsu...
...have you lost weight?

Well,
he tends to keep everything to himself.
That boy just can't seem to eat.
What can I...
...do...
Orphans. Children left with no parents.
Adults with shattered dreams.
They showed victims on TV.
There has to be something I can do!
I have the strength to do something, don't I!?
What am I doing!?

I can help people who got hurt!
Now, I'm 20 years old,
attending a medical welfare school to study mental care for people of all ages.
The dorm I'm staying in...
Share Heart Village
...is a facility that promotes the restoration of eastern Japan.
Morioka City
Morioka Vocational College of Medical Welfare
There...
Sanriku Reconstruction Calendar
...I came in contact with other people volunteering.
I was able to learn how to support my community from watching others up close.

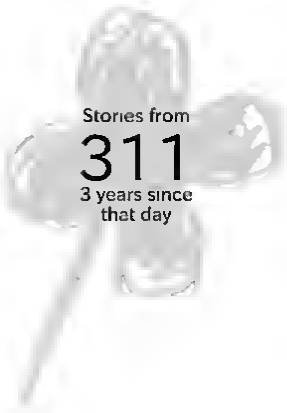
I'm thinking about working for a support organization in my hometown or overseas.
I, too, got in on the volunteer action.
I...
No, nothing changed.
Has anything changed about you since the disaster, Tamotsu?
...think I just became my old self.
Grandma...
...I can't tell her to dream.
...to look up and step forward.
Back home, my grandmother is still struggling...

Sorry, he couldn't say it before but...
Mr. Santa...
Mr. Santa..
Just wait!
I'll be a man you can depend on soon!
Thank you for the present!
I had a dream once,
and now...
I have a dream again.

Third Impression
I guess they're both Tamotsu in the end.
Second Impression
He really does have a lot on his plate.
Hopes!
First Impression
He had a little beard, too.
Dreams!
Too shiny!
Too bright!
And he was handsome!!
The more I talked with him, the more his image changed in my mind.
Tamotsu Ito, the boy I wrote this manga about, was introduced to me by a friend volunteering in Iwate.
I realized that was the real northeastern Japan.
There are towns with both light and dark.
People with both light and dark.
There are many people like Tamotsu.
It'll soon be three years since the Great East Japan Earthquake.
I see. Not anything like "hold on to your dreams," huh?
Well then, what would you like to say to those not affected?
I want you to depend on us!
My lasy question for him: "Is there anything you'd like to say to the victims of 311?"
The young man before me made me feel like I could do anything.
I still have a dream, so I have to do my best for those that lost theirs!
I'm still young, so I have to do my best for them!
However, there are still many people without hope.
Thank you for letting me meet such wonderful people, and teaching me so much.
North-eastern Japan—
I'll come again
You can count on that!
This kid... He really motivates you!!
Actually, I'd like to tell them...
...to hold on to their dreams!

Special thanks

Tamotsu and his family/Ryohei Suzuki/Everyone at Share Heart Village/The 311 office workers/The editors/Everyone who helped make this possible



Story 7

Kazumi Ohya

Koriyama City, Fukushima

...met with fate on March 11th, 2011.
Bread
Western sweets
Even a bakery in Koriyama, Fukushima...
At magnitude 6...
It hit when we left the bakery to the workers...
...while my parents and I were upstairs in our house.
Our house is going to collapse!
It's going to collapse!
Ms. K, Koriyama resident

During the long and rough shaking the fire extinguisher fell and accidentally went off.

Ah...

...what?

What's that?

But...

...there was no time for us to even think about it.

...but the register is out of order, so let me add that up.

I'm sorry...

Amidst the aftershocks and power outages, so many customers came to the bakery.

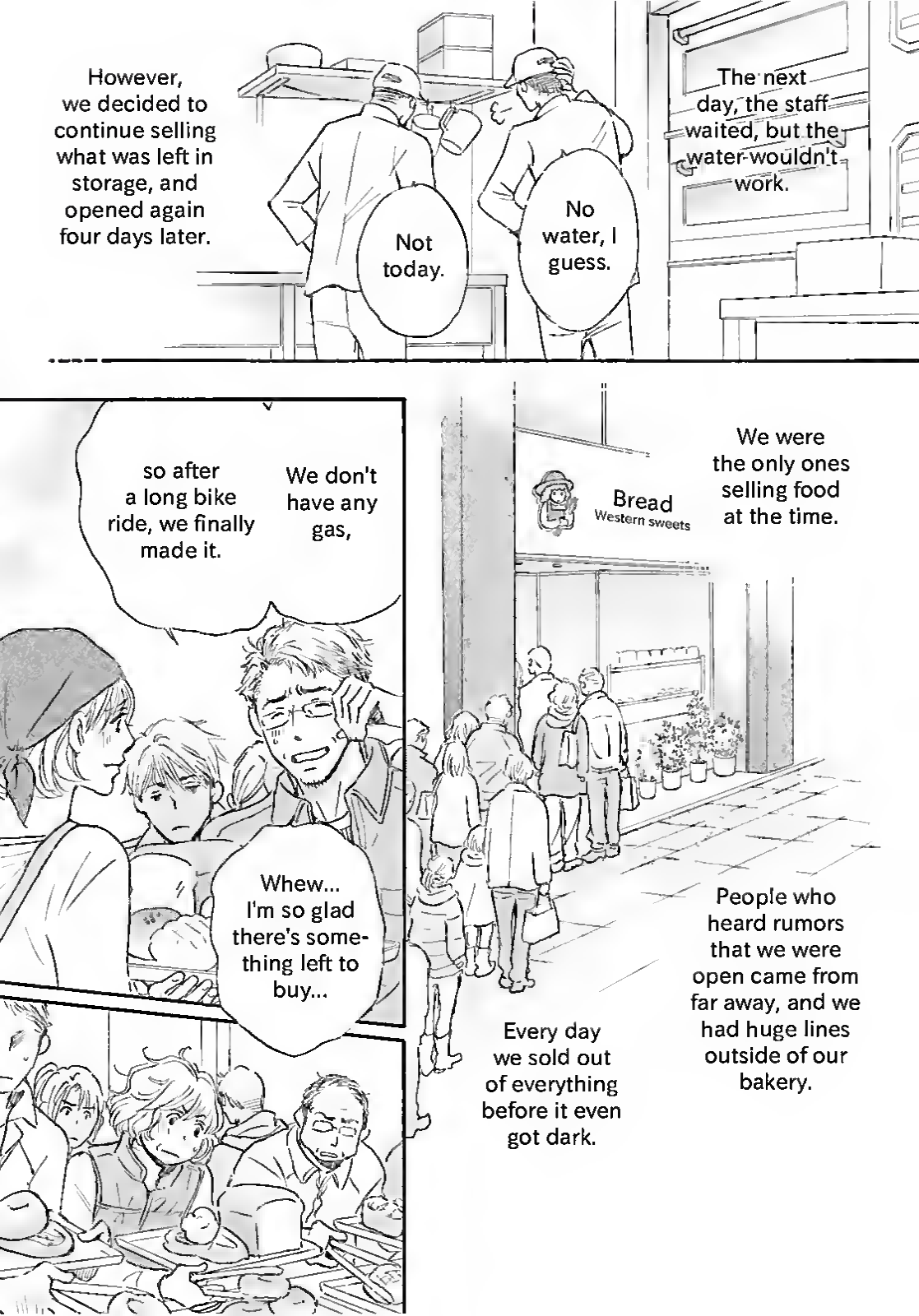
We sold out of all our bread that very day.

My father was trapped in a back room.

Hey! Get me out of here!

We had no water for a few days and couldn't even clean it up.

Ingredients mixed with discharge from the fire extinguisher covered the floor in a sticky mess.


However, we decided to continue selling what was left in storage, and opened again four days later.
Not today.
No water, I guess.
The next day, the staff waited, but the water wouldn't work.
We were the only ones selling food at the time.
Bread
Western sweets
People who heard rumors that we were open came from far away, and we had huge lines outside of our bakery.
Every day we sold out of everything before it even got dark.
so after a long bike ride, we finally made it.
We don't have any gas,
Whew... I'm so glad there's something left to buy...

Huh?
No, no! Please, let me buy it!
Ah...
...excuse me, I'll get rid of this right away.
Ah!
to ith!
Oh...
...but...
It's okay, really!
We'll heat it up and it will be fine!
I need all the food I can get.
Normally...
Okay...
...sure.
...I could never sell a bun that I had touched with my bare hands after it fell on the ground.

...and put the bun back on the customer's tray.

Well, then...

I just bowed my head...

Everyone...

...wanted to go back to their regular lives as soon as possible.

In Fukushima, that terrible accident kept getting worse every day.

But around the same time...

We all worked to sheer exhaustion every day.

It was a message from my friend in western Japan, worried about me.
2011/03/18
Why don't you get out of there?
Oh, a message...
Yes!
I'll be right there!
Ms. K! Can you come here?
To be honest, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't scared.
How should I answer that?
Yeah...
As the chaotic days after the earthquake passed,
the people of Fukushima were still facing the harsh realities of nuclear disaster.
Sigh
But at that time...
I simply buried myself in work so I didn't have to think about my ever-growing worries.
...I couldn't even think about leaving all that behind in Fukushima.
...my family, my house, our bakery, our customers...

there were radioactivity detectors set up.

At the station and in different places around town,

Today, three years later.

...that had cleaned the contaminated dirt on their premises had nowhere to throw the containers away.

Many families...

How long are we going to leave it here?

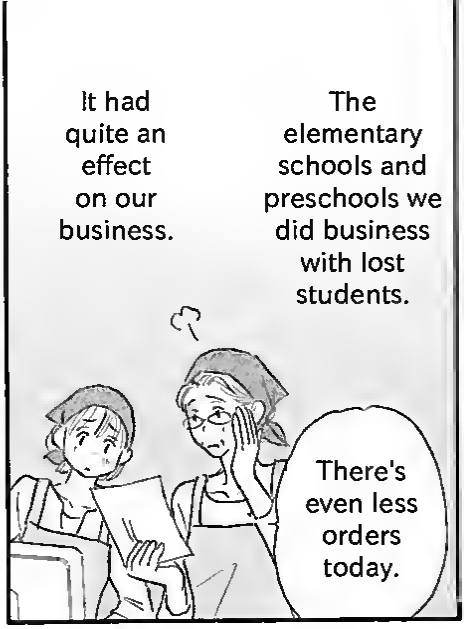
What are we supposed to do with this?

...they announced radioactivity levels like some kind of weather forecast.

Every day on the radio and TV...

And now...

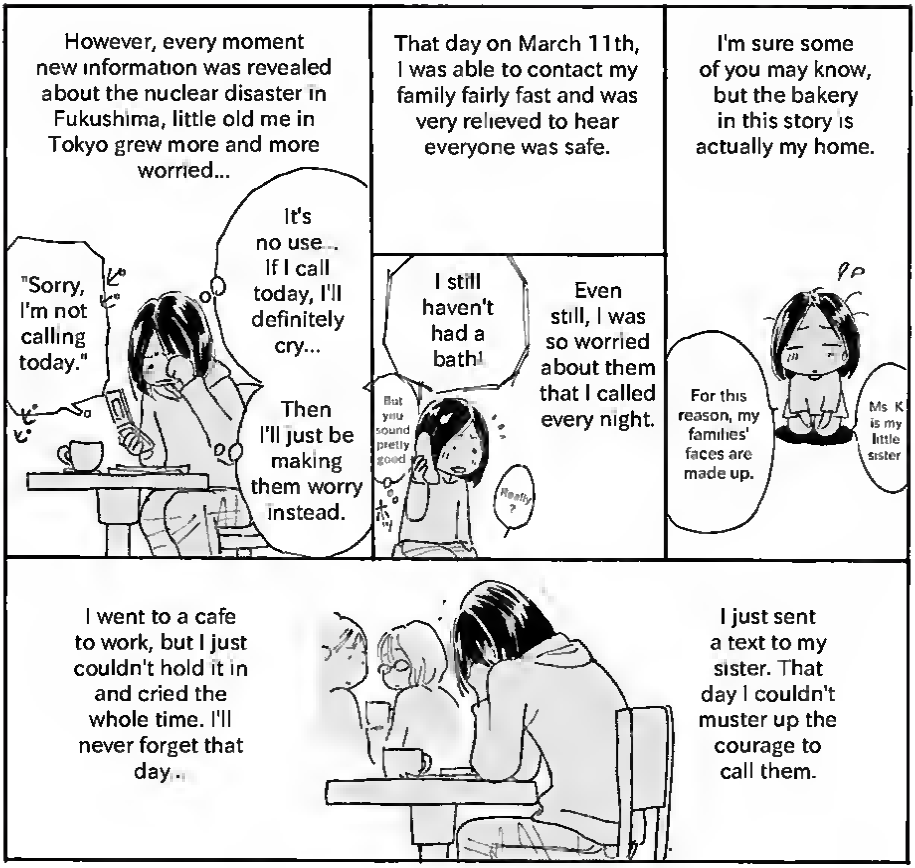
...the radiation levels of Japan.


It had quite an effect on our business.
The elementary schools and preschools we did business with lost students.
There's even less orders today.

Sorry, but I'm getting out of here with my wife and child.
Even some of our loyal customers at the bakery...
...and one of our most important workers left.
Take care of yourself, okay?

No matter what happens, Fukushima is home to so many people.

It's still a place we can live a normal life. A place where we move from the past, into the future.


However, every moment new information was revealed about the nuclear disaster in Fukushima, little old me in Tokyo grew more and more worried...
"Sorry, I'm not calling today."
It's no use... If I call today, I'll definitely cry...
Then I'll just be making them worry instead.
That day on March 11th, I was able to contact my family fairly fast and was very relieved to hear everyone was safe.
I still haven't had a bath!
But you sound pretty good
Really?
Even still, I was so worried about them that I called every night.
I'm sure some of you may know, but the bakery in this story is actually my home.
For this reason, my families' faces are made up.
Ms. K is my little sister
I went to a cafe to work, but I just couldn't hold it in and cried the whole time. I'll never forget that day.
I just sent a text to my sister. That day I couldn't muster up the courage to call them.

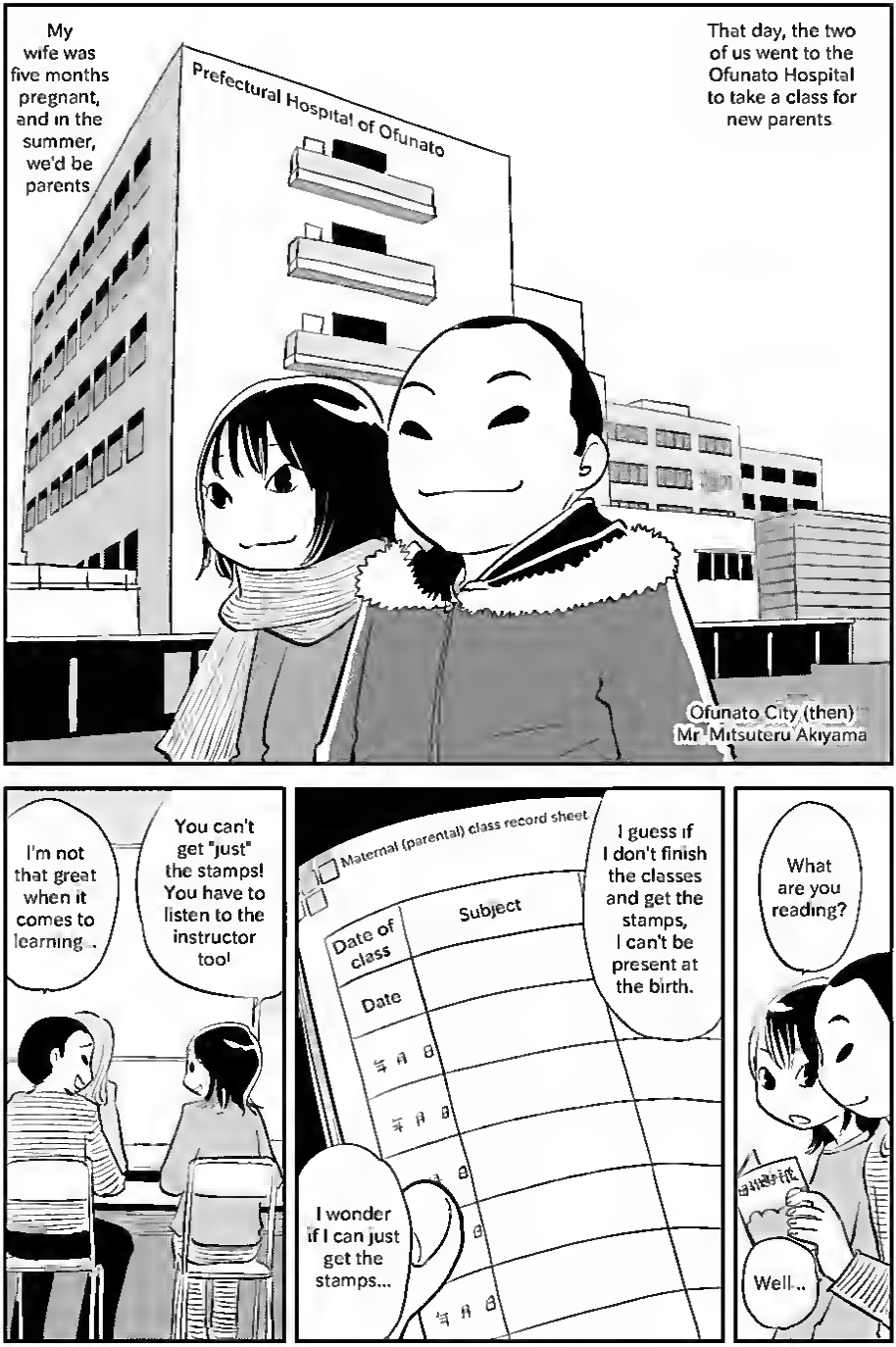
I sincerely pray every day for their situations to get better as soon as possible.

I just so happened to write about my families' shop this time, but I'm sure there are lots of other shops, businesses, or families with the same (or even worse) experiences. This is just a brief example of their hardships. There are people who can't return to Fukushima for various reasons.

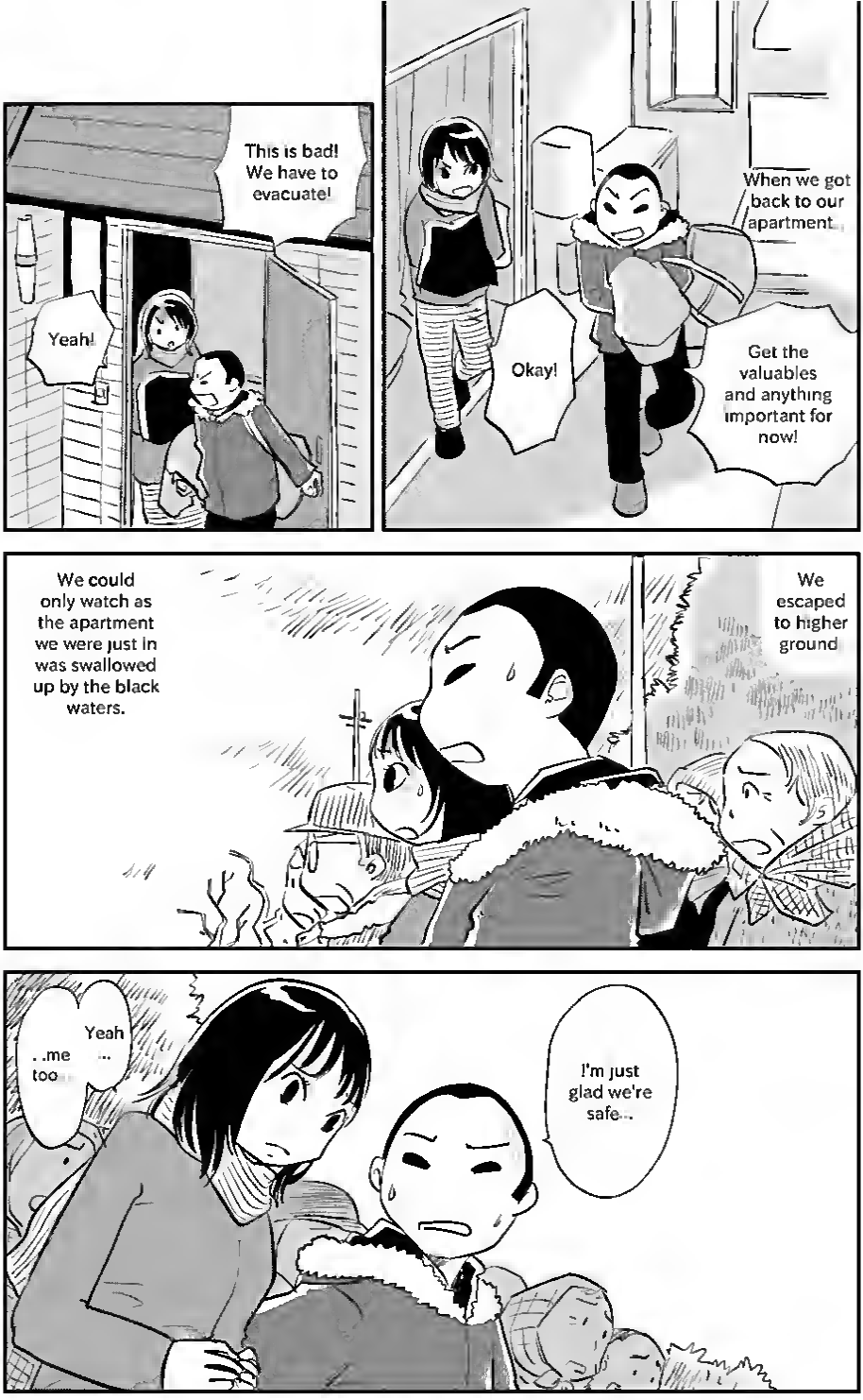
Story 8

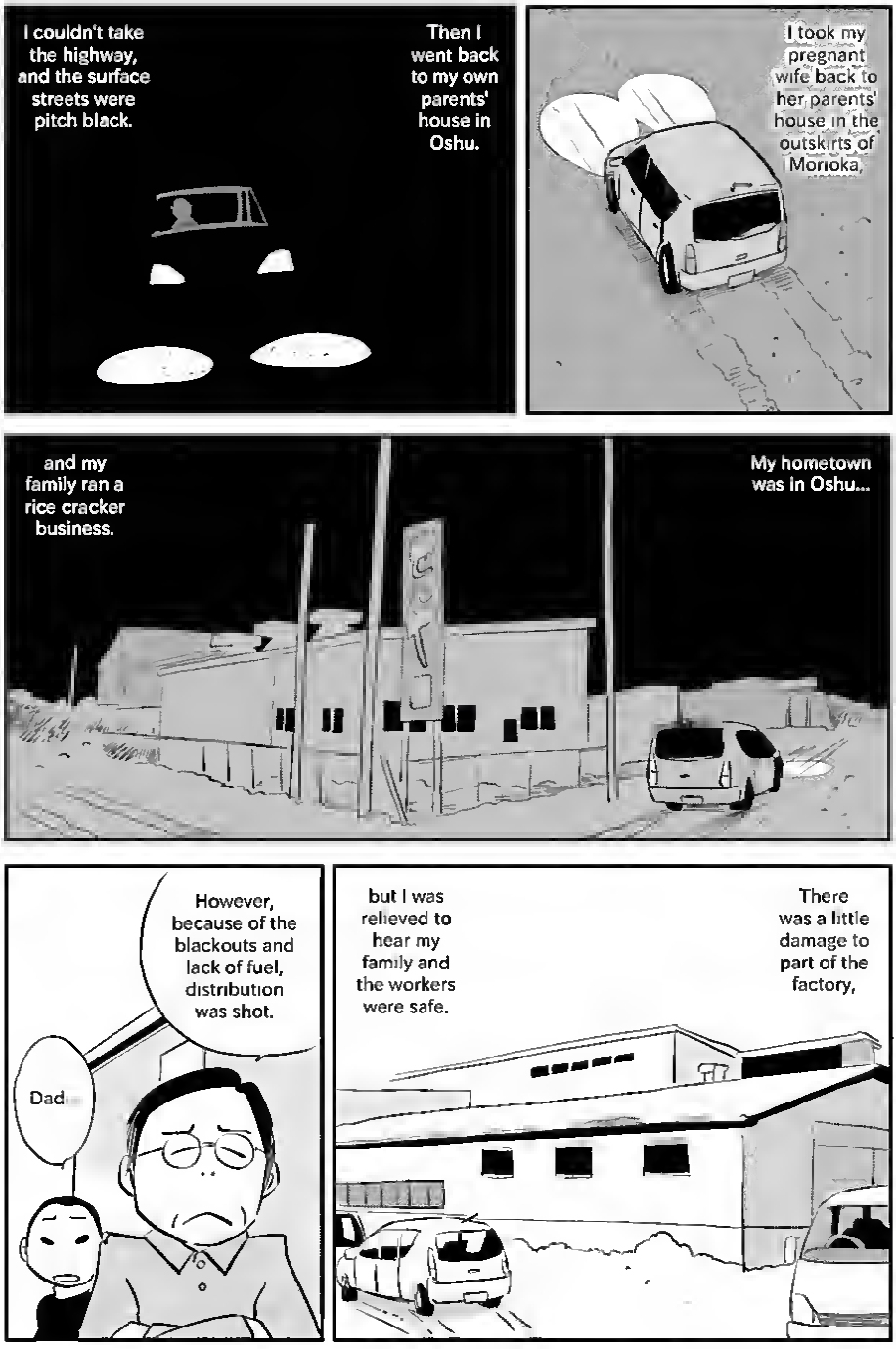
Toshinao Aoki

Ofunato City & Oshu City, Iwate


My wife was five months pregnant, and in the summer, we'd be parents.
Prefectural Hospital of Ofunato
That day, the two of us went to the Ofunato Hospital to take a class for new parents.
Ofunato City (then)
Mr. Mitsuteru Akiyama
I'm not that great when it comes to learning...
You can't get "just" the stamps! You have to listen to the instructor too!
Maternal (parental) class record sheet
Date of class
Subject
Date
I guess if I don't finish the classes and get the stamps, I can't be present at the birth.
I wonder if I can just get the stamps...
What are you reading?
Well...

We left the hospital,
and I heard a tsunami alert like never before.
It's a big one!!
It's an earth-quake!
ガタ
Huh?
We hurried back to our apartment
Hurry! The tsunami will be here 30 minutes after the earthquake!
I just so happened to be in Sumatra when it happened.
It was the same for Sumatra when an earthquake hit their coast in 2004.


This is bad! We have to evacuate!
Yeah!
When we got back to our apartment...
Okay!
Get the valuables and anything important for now!
We could only watch as the apartment we were just in was swallowed up by the black waters.
We escaped to higher ground
Yeah...
...me too...
I'm just glad we're safe...

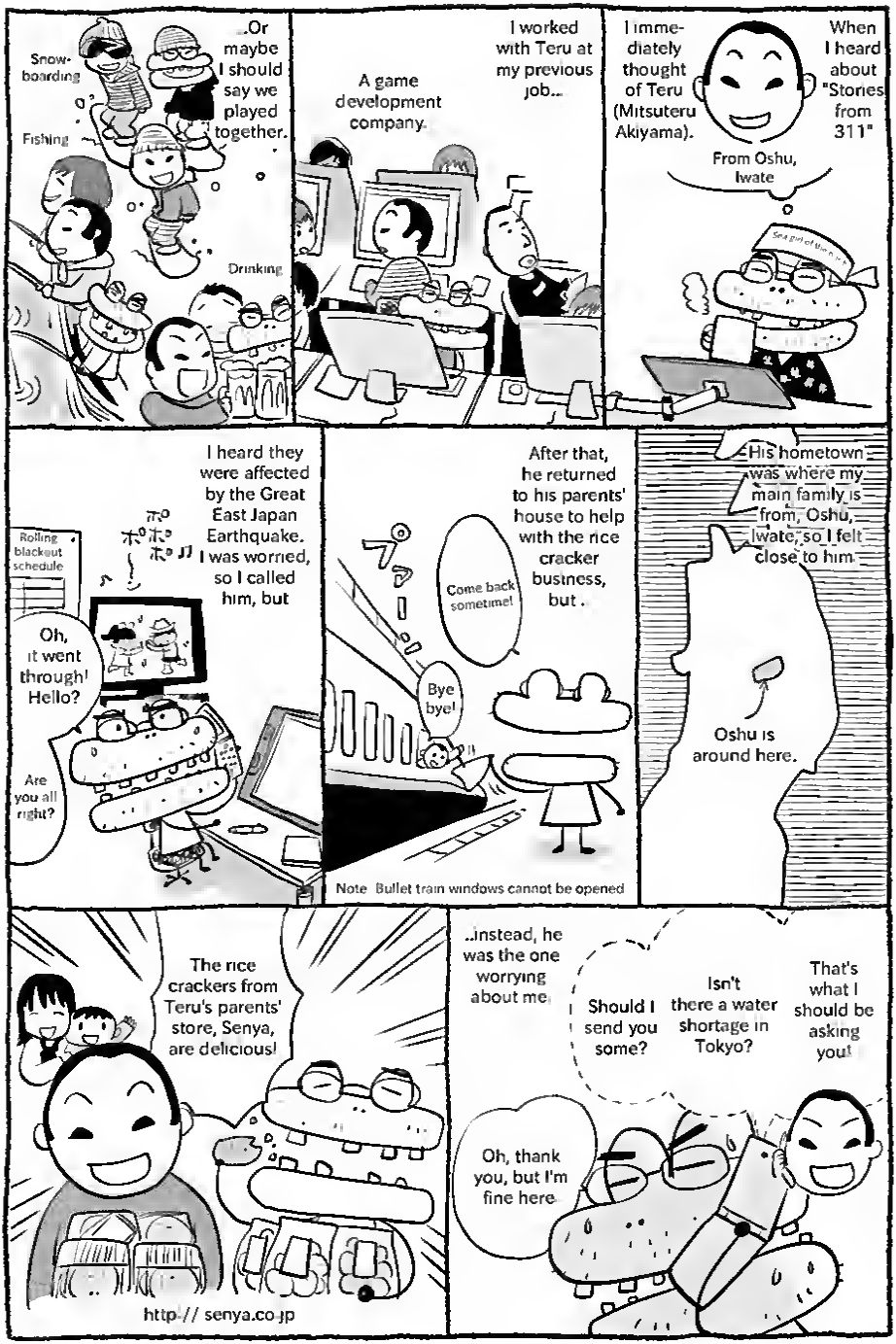

I couldn't take the highway, and the surface streets were pitch black.
Then I went back to my own parents' house in Oshu.
I took my pregnant wife back to her parents' house in the outskirts of Morioka.
and my family ran a rice cracker business.
My hometown was in Oshu...
However, because of the blackouts and lack of fuel, distribution was shot.
Dad...
but I was relieved to hear my family and the workers were safe.
There was a little damage to part of the factory,

If it's rice you want, we've got it!
Luckily, this is a rice cracker factory!
However!
We can't fix anything, so we can't make use of the factory.
Oshu's famous rice cracker dumpling soup!!
We made rice balls and...
We took all the fuel we had...
...and used it to run the generator...
...that we used to cook rice
My father gave them to the people in town

Hahaha!
You got that right!
Then we drank!!
Drink some sake to warm yer bones!
It's cold as heck, but what can ya do?
Oh boy!
Hahaha!
Well, if everyone's happy...
Jeez, you guys...
Mitsuteru, bring us some more, will ya?
and my wife was to give birth at the local hospital.
I moved close to my parent's house,
but it was in complete shambles.
Later, I went back to my apartment in Ofunato,

I wonder if I can be a dad...
It's just that I regret not getting a stamp the day of the earthquake..
Maternal (parental) class
Date of class
Subject
Your first time being parents
May 21st, 2011
Notes
The experience of a pregnant woman
Have a healthy body
When eating
Oshu Mizusawa Health Center
Second course
June 8th, 2011
Preparations for birth
How long birthing takes and
Ahaha! What are you talking about?
You're reading the handbook again
Yeah
HANDB
THY MOTHER
We made it through that day
so I'm sure it'll be a healthy baby
You can become a parent without those silly stamps
Then in August, she gave birth without any problems.
Hoping everything would turn out for the best, we named him Mitsuki
I was even able to be there at the birth! It was inspiring!
Yeah...
I guess you're right.

I'll be right back!
What? Where to!?
I just have to get all those stamps
How-ever...
A healthy mother and child handbook
Excuse me! Could you please stamp this!?
Prefec-tural hospital of Ofunato
June 8th, 2011
March 11th, 2011
Couple's class parent's class
Mother's class (2nd trimester)
Prefectural hospital of Ofunato
About giving birth
Prefectural hos-pital of Ofunato
Ob/Gyn
I felt like I was really a father after that
...finally got all da wittle stamps!
You're wittle daddy...
Little Mitsuki!
With that, I felt like I finally got through that day.
A healthy mother and child handbook


Snow-boarding
Fishing
Drinking
...Or maybe I should say we played together.
A game development company.
I worked with Teru at my previous job...
I immediately thought of Teru (Mitsuteru Akiyama).
When I heard about "Stories from 311"
From Oshu, Iwate
I heard they were affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. I was worried, so I called him, but
Rolling blackout schedule
Oh, it went through! Hello?
Are you all right?
After that, he returned to his parents' house to help with the rice cracker business, but .
Come back sometime!
Bye bye!
Note Bullet train windows cannot be opened
His hometown was where my main family is from, Oshu, Iwate, so I felt close to him.
Oshu is around here.
The rice crackers from Teru's parents' store, Senya, are delicious!
http // senya.co.jp
...instead, he was the one worrying about me.
Should I send you some?
Isn't there a water shortage in Tokyo?
That's what I should be asking you!
Oh, thank you, but I'm fine here.

Story 9

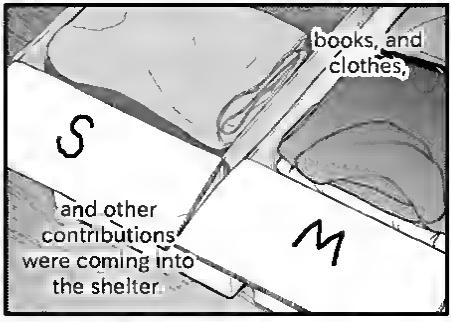
Ume

Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi

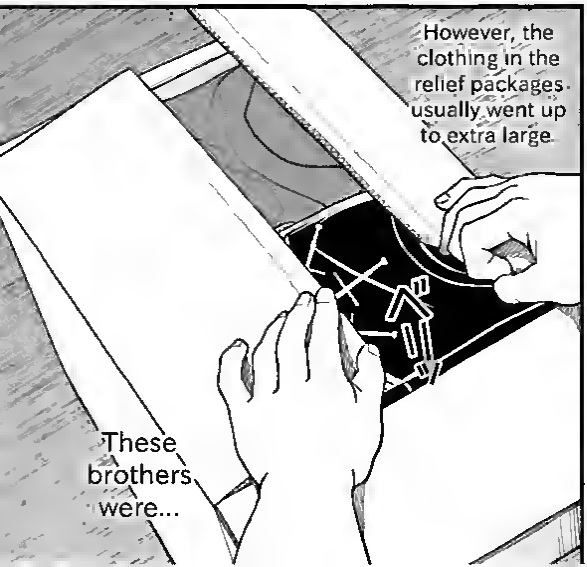
Say "Ahh."
Ahh.
That's what it's gonna be.
Tomotaka Uchida
Age 35
That's what it's gonna be?
Takuma Uchida
Age 40

more and more food,

Minamisanriku, Shizugawa High School shelter
A few weeks after the earthquake...


books, and clothes,
S
M
and other contributions were coming into the shelter.

Have you been changing?
Hey, haven't you two been wearing the same clothes all this time?


However, the clothing in the relief packages usually went up to extra large.
These brothers were...

I mean, we're...
No, not even once.
Excuse me, can someone please come and take this relief package?

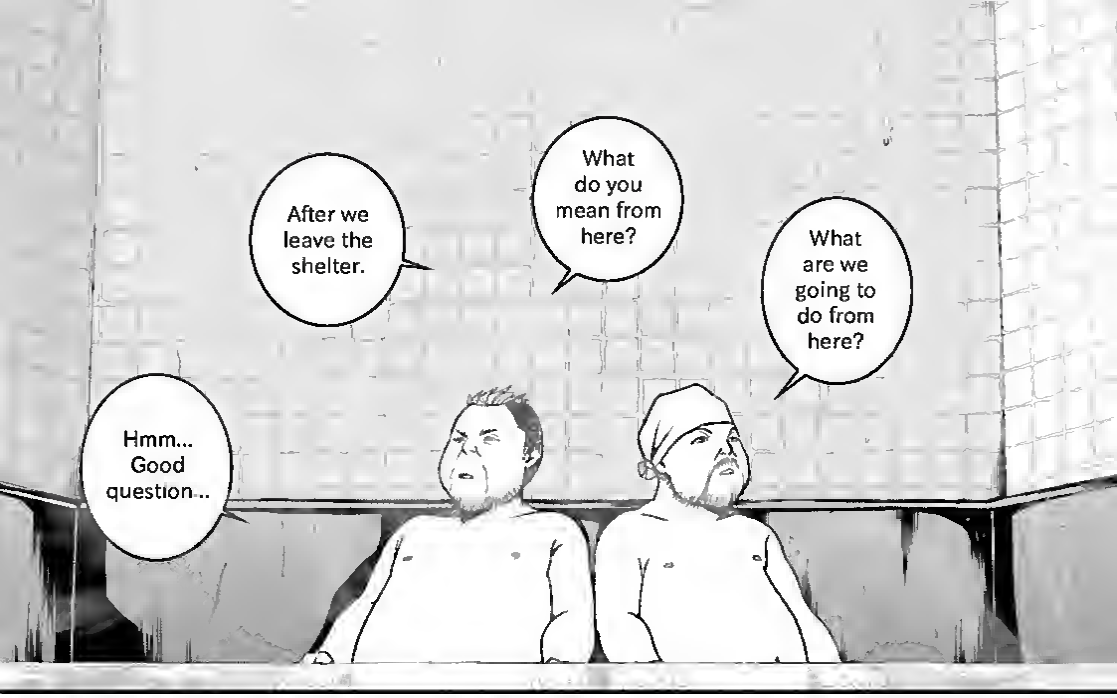
...size XXXXL!

Ha-ha...
Five large size shirts don't exactly make one XXXXL shirt!
Good good!

Hey, Taku...

Hm?

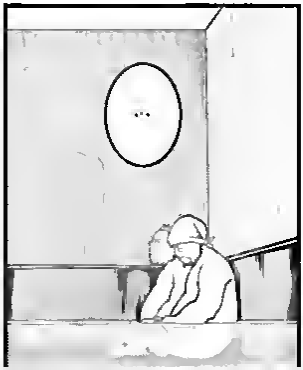
チムグクルの湯
Looks like we're the last in the bath again.
This is all the hot water that's left, haha.
15th Logistic Support Troop
15th Brigade Okinawa
We'll just have to dump the water on ourselves


After we leave the shelter.
What do you mean from here?
What are we going to do from here?
Hmm... Good question...

To be honest, I really enjoyed the liveliness of the customers.
I've been thinking about that a lot lately.
I know exactly how you feel.

...and all those CDs I collected drifted off in the water.
Our shop and our house got washed away...

There was also talk about a volunteer catering service.
We can be cooks here.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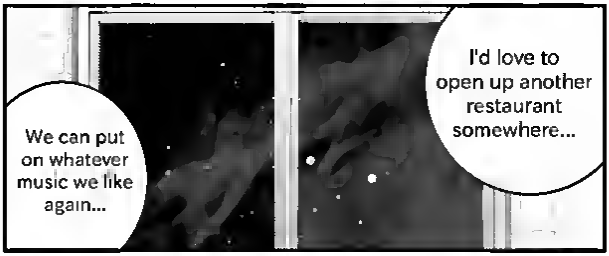
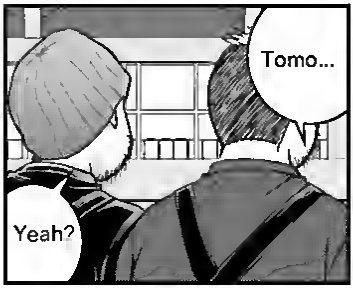

We can put on whatever music we like again...
I'd love to open up another restaurant somewhere...

Let's do it!
Do you think we have enough?
Come to think of it, there was that stuff in the relief package today, right?
Yeah, I think so.
How about tomorrow?
Hey everyone!
Sorry to keep you waiting so long!
Huh?
This sweet smell...
Could it be?!
Hm?

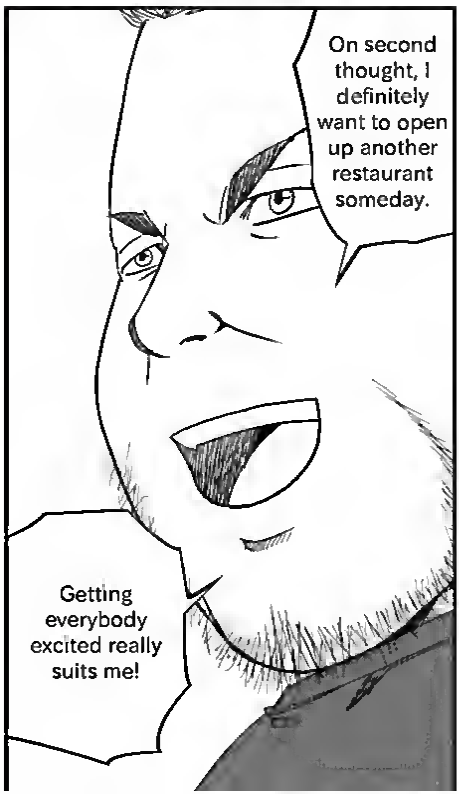
Wow!
The sweet stuff you've all been waiting for!
Azuki soup!
We've been saving up beans for a while now.
We finally got enough to make soup for everyone.
How did you make this!?
Taku, Tomo, you guys are amazing!
I never thought we'd be able to eat sweets in a place like this!
It's really good!
Ohhh!
Woo! It warms the soul!
ズズ…

Even if you can't make one XXXXL shirt from five large shirts ..
you can save up..
enough azuki beans for everyone to eat!
Ha-ha...


Tomo...
Yeah?

All right!
Tomo

Yeah, it does!


On second thought, I definitely want to open up another restaurant someday.
Getting everybody excited really suits me!

Two years later...

glow
And the big brother Taku opened a bar called "glow" in Nakameguro, Tokyo
Getting all of his alcohol and ingredients from Minamisanriku and the northeast, he gives everyone a good time every night.

Little brother Tomo helps support live music in the affected areas.
大漁
桃梨
He's taking the music he loves and spreading it all around.
Lately he's even working as support staff for tours outside of the northeast.

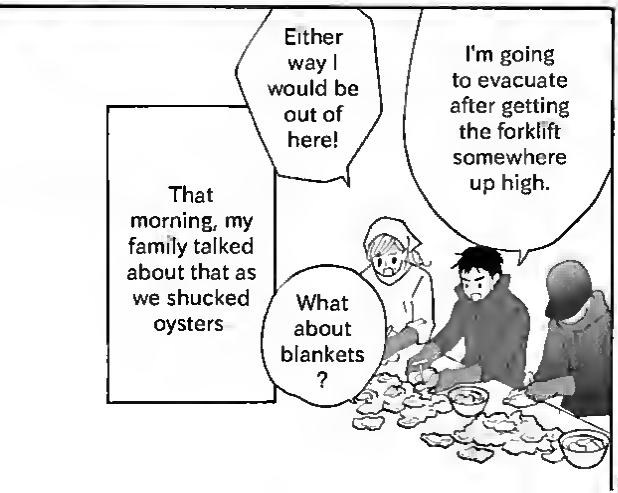
Ume's
Night in Nakameguro
Ume
(Takahiro Ozawa & Asako Seo)
He met a worker in a clothing shop for large men in Shinjuku.
It was right after Taku had started up his bar.
What? Your hometown is Minamisanriku ?
Our store actually sent clothes there...
...because we heard there were two huge brothers in Shizugawa.
in Shizu-gawa...
Huge broth-ers...
That's... Probably me and my little brother.
That's my name.
Really?!
Umm.. I think this is it...
W-wait a second. I remember saving the person's name that took the package...
What?
Also, the name "glow" comes from Nakameguro (Nakameglow)
As I listened to his incredible story, the night grew dark in Nakameguro.
By the way, this is glow's popular specialty curry.

Story 10

Tomoko Ninomiya

Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi

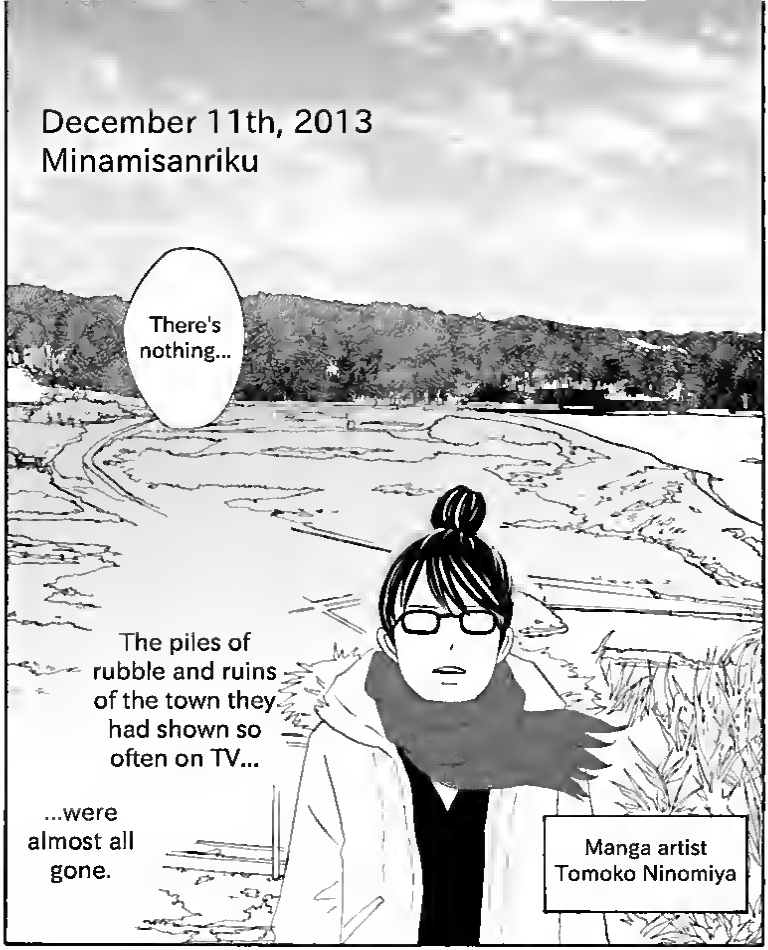
Minamisanriku March 11th, 2011


That morning, my family talked about that as we shucked oysters
Either way I would be out of here!
I'm going to evacuate after getting the forklift somewhere up high.
What about blankets ?

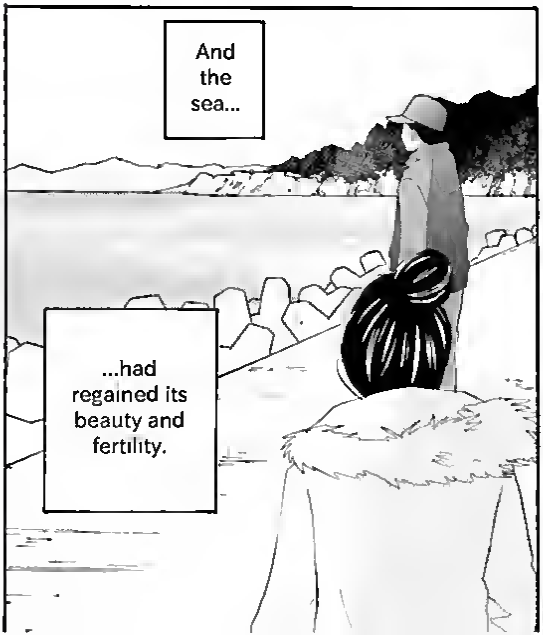
Taku Chiba (26 at the time)
Oyster fisherman, 3rd generation

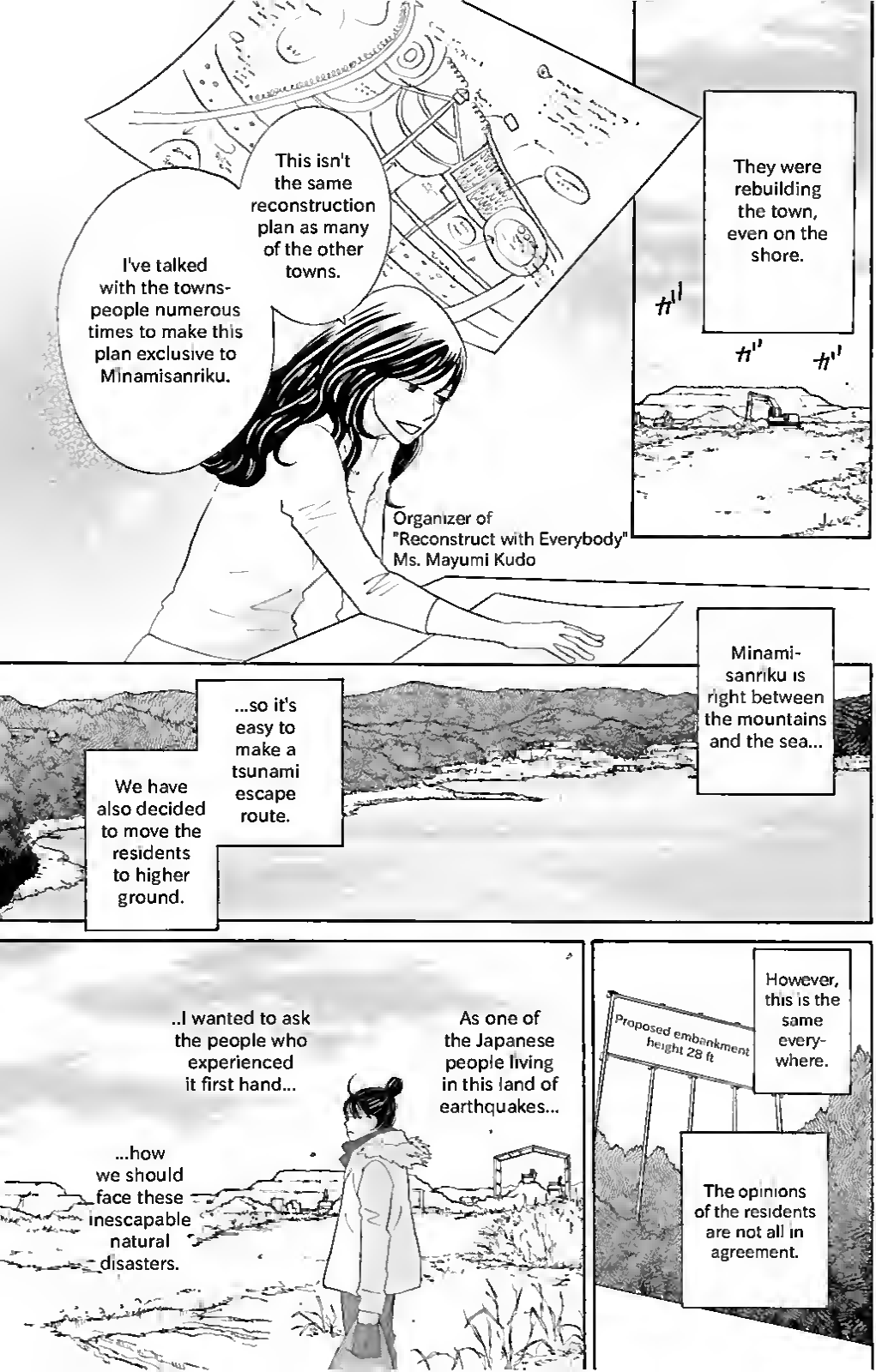
An earthquake really came!
Af...
After the shaking settles down let's do exactly what we planned!
My father went out to sea on his boat
Then, that afternoon...
ゴ〃〃〃
But the town and the ocean were eerily quiet...
I'm gonna go get some of my belong-ings.
Some people went back into town...
After a little time had passed
I was with my wife and my then only three-month-old daughter.
We followed our plan precisely.
We escaped to an ele-mentary school on higher ground.

There are more over there.
You have to get to higher ground!
I'm gonna go check the town for people!
I was planning on joining the fire department in April, so...
I'll go get a car.
I could see my house from that intersection.
When I think about it now...
I decided not to go!
But my wife and daughter are waiting for me!
...was the town being swallowed up by the tsunami...
...and my own house being washed away.
What I saw after I escaped ...
The fact that my loved ones brought me back saved my life that day.

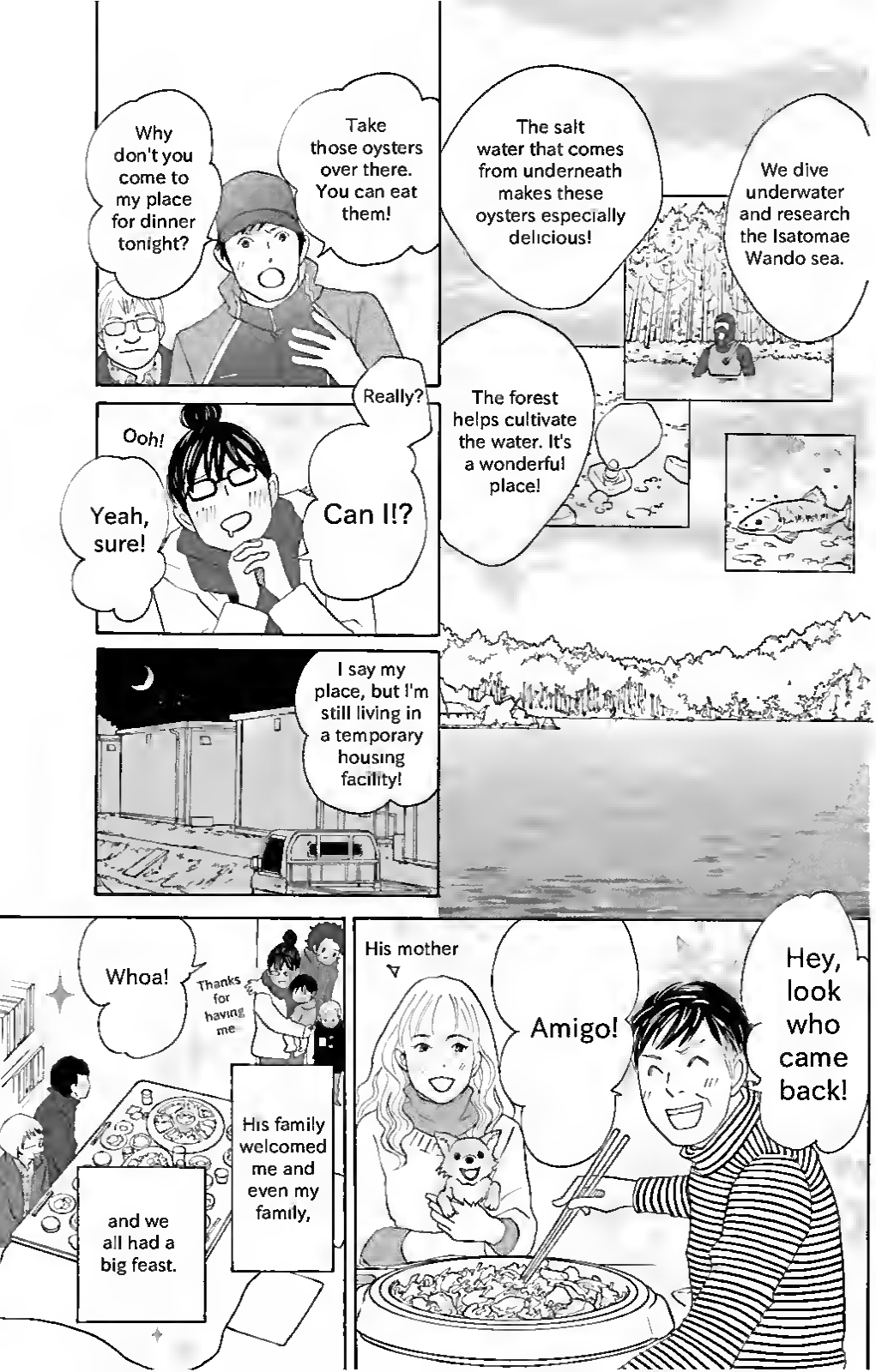

December 11th, 2013
Minamisanriku
There's nothing...
The piles of rubble and ruins of the town they had shown so often on TV...
...were almost all gone.
Manga artist Tomoko Ninomiya

Three years later...



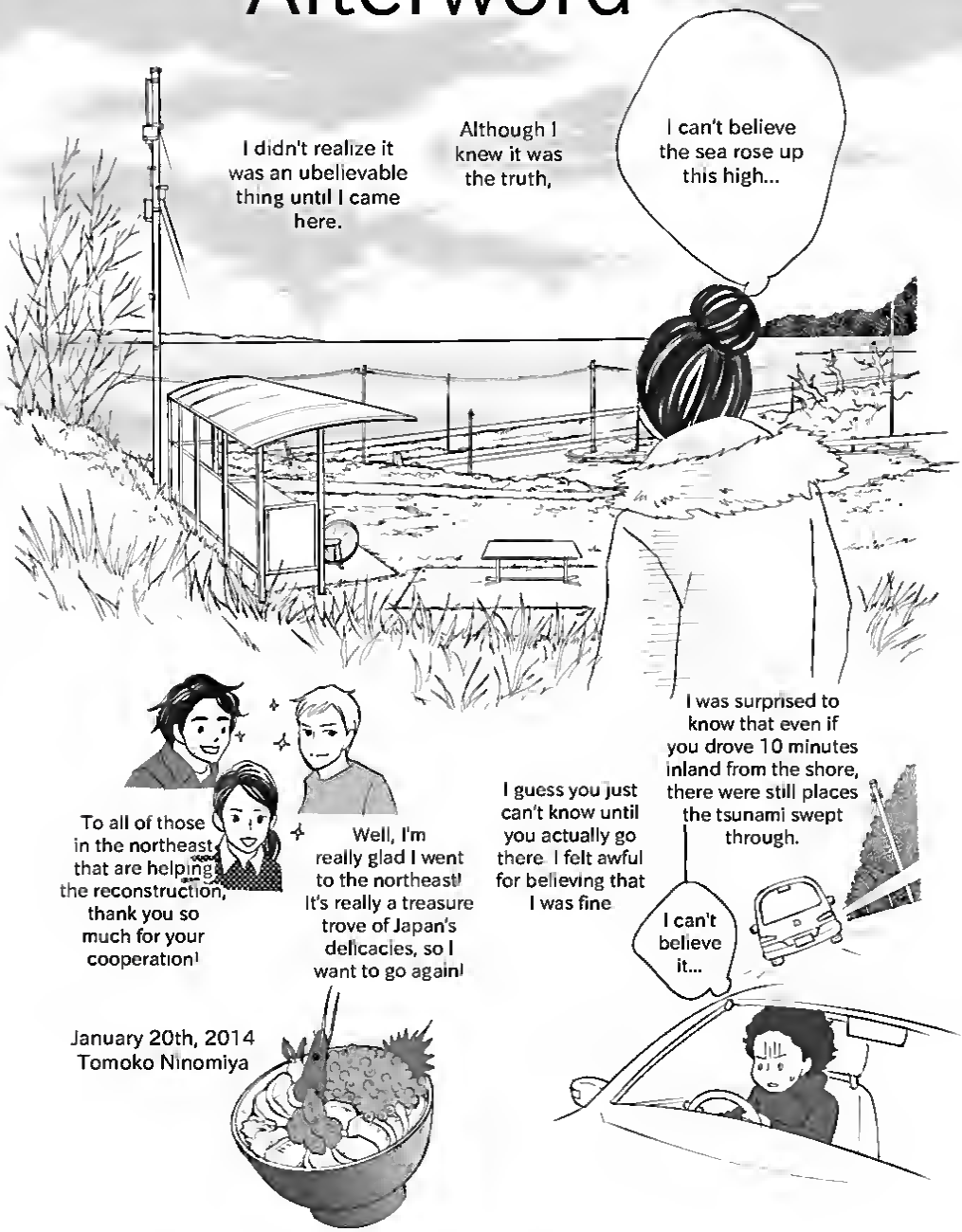

They were rebuilding the town, even on the shore.
This isn't the same reconstruction plan as many of the other towns.
I've talked with the townspeople numerous times to make this plan exclusive to Minamisanriku.
Organizer of "Reconstruct with Everybody" Ms. Mayumi Kudo
Minami-sanriku is right between the mountains and the sea...
...so it's easy to make a tsunami escape route.
We have also decided to move the residents to higher ground.
..I wanted to ask the people who experienced it first hand...
As one of the Japanese people living in this land of earthquakes...
...how we should face these inescapable natural disasters.
Proposed embankment height 28 ft
However, this is the same every-where.
The opinions of the residents are not all in agreement.

Well...
I'll sing it to you!
ポロロー
What kind of town do you want to make?
Why would people want to continue living there?
STRUM
STRUM
STRUM
Did he say sing?!
*This is Maruta fisheries' office building
♪If you look from the ocean you see a forest town. If you look down from the mountains, you can see the river running through.
Taku's mentor
..explained by this here.
What he wants to say is...
Center for Aquatic Plant Research Manager
Mr. Shogo Arai
♪What are we going to leave our kids?
♪Let's shout about all of the important things for the future


Why don't you come to my place for dinner tonight?
Take those oysters over there. You can eat them!
The salt water that comes from underneath makes these oysters especially delicious!
We dive underwater and research the Isatomae Wando sea.
Really?
Ooh!
Yeah, sure!
Can I!?
The forest helps cultivate the water. It's a wonderful place!
I say my place, but I'm still living in a temporary housing facility!
Whoa!
Thanks for having me
His family welcomed me and even my family,
and we all had a big feast.
His mother
Amigo!
Hey, look who came back!

What I want to leave to these children...
...is this sea and the forest that provides the spring water!
You can see how wonderful the sea is just from this!
They were really uniquely delicious oysters.
It's so sweet...
Sweet salt they got from the spring water.
Wahaha!
No, that's okay, I understand this time.
Okay! Mr. Arai, translate for me.
Don't drink it all at once!!
Go on, drink up!
Then ...
No matter how many times a natural disaster hits, the reason people choose to stay here is because of the vibrant sea and the food it provides them to live.
I can't help but cry.
Wahaha!
When I draw the smiling faces of a family that went through such a horrible experience, but still live their lives happily...
Thank you for teaching me so many important things.
This is a place we Japanese people cannot afford to lose.

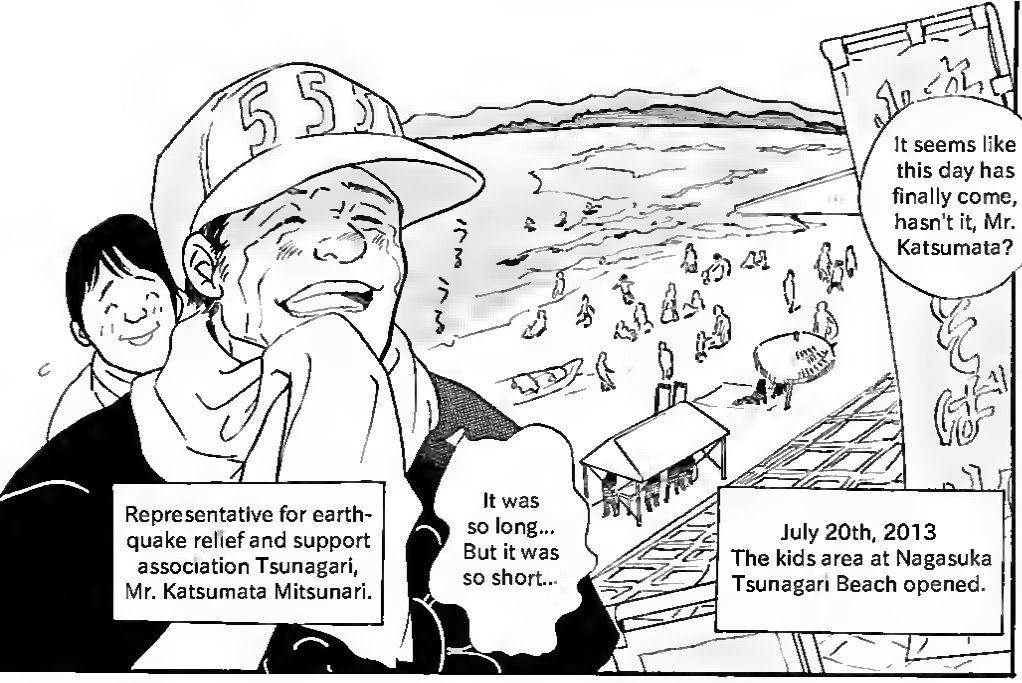
Afterword

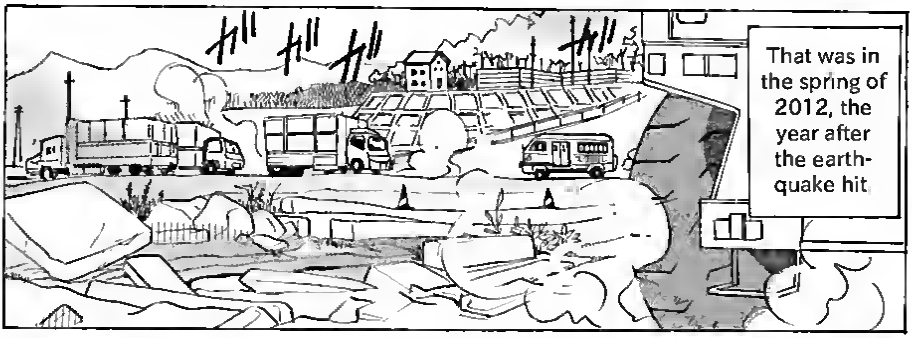

I didn't realize it was an ubelievable thing until I came here.
Although I knew it was the truth,
I can't believe the sea rose up this high...
I was surprised to know that even if you drove 10 minutes inland from the shore, there were still places the tsunami swept through.
I guess you just can't know until you actually go there. I felt awful for believing that I was fine.
I can't believe it...
To all of those in the northeast that are helping the reconstruction, thank you so much for your cooperation!
Well, I'm really glad I went to the northeast! It's really a treasure trove of Japan's delicacies, so I want to go again!
January 20th, 2014
Tomoko Ninomiya

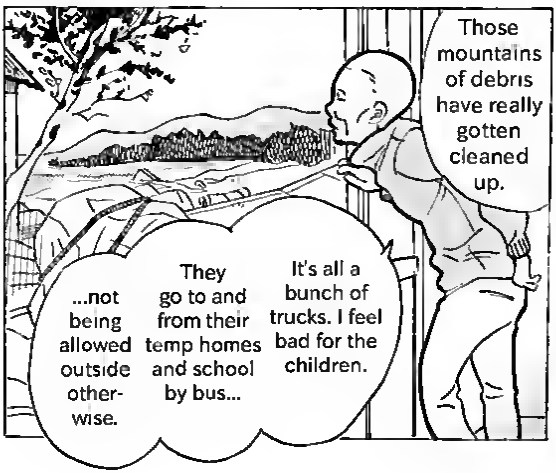
Story 11

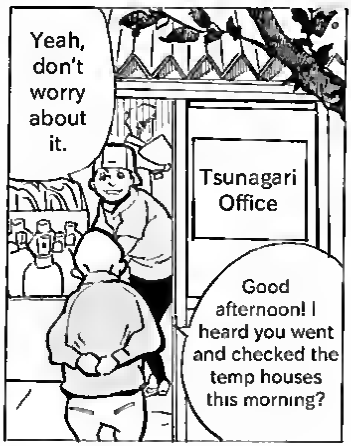
Naoko Mazda

Minamisanriku-cho, Miyagi


It seems like this day has finally come, hasn't it, Mr. Katsumata?
うう
うう
Representative for earthquake relief and support association Tsunagari, Mr. Katsumata Mitsunari.
It was so long... But it was so short...
July 20th, 2013
The kids area at Nagasuka Tsunagari Beach opened.


That was in the spring of 2012, the year after the earthquake hit

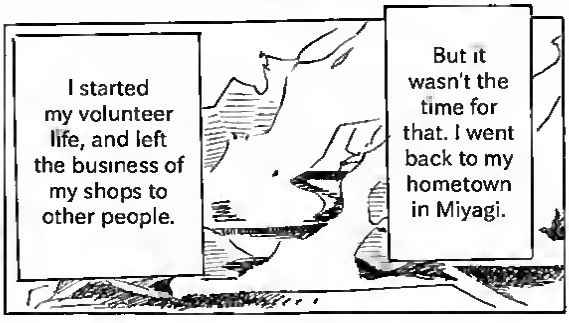

Those mountains of debris have really gotten cleaned up.
It's all a bunch of trucks. I feel bad for the children.
They go to and from their temp homes and school by bus...
...not being allowed outside otherwise.

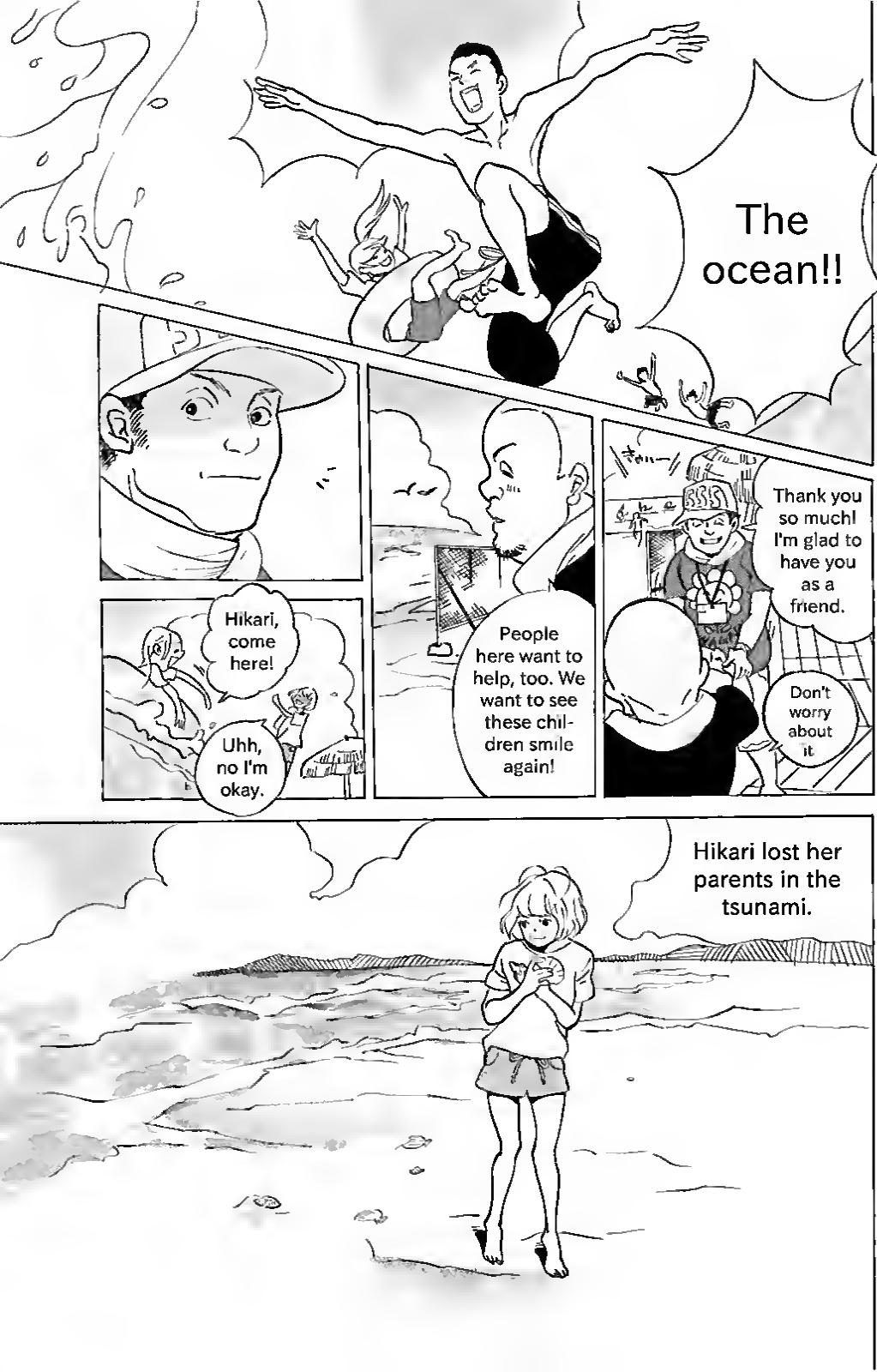

Yeah, don't worry about it.
Tsunagari Office
Good afternoon! I heard you went and checked the temp houses this morning?

On top of that, the beach...
...is still filled with garbage...
It was oh so very beautiful...
...pure white sand running on for miles.
The beach at Utatsu used to have...

DIVING
Rental
If that's the case then come to Okinawa with the kids!
We could try looking for a company here that'll help you out with donations!
Manager
DIVING
Onna Village, Okinawa

When the earthquake hit, I was trying to open a diving shop in Okinawa.
The kids around here can't even play on the beach in the summer.


I started my volunteer life, and left the business of my shops to other people.
But it wasn't the time for that. I went back to my hometown in Miyagi.


The ocean!!
Thank you so much! I'm glad to have you as a friend.
Don't worry about it
People here want to help, too. We want to see these children smile again!
Hikari, come here!
Uhh, no I'm okay.
Hikari lost her parents in the tsunami.

That's not something you get over that easily...
It was fun.
But...
But?
But what, Hide?
This face is hilarious!!
Hahaha!
Office of volunteer group Tsunagari
That was a lot of fun, huh?
How did you guys like Okinawa's beaches?

I want to swim in the ocean at Utatsu.
You want to swim in there?
What are you gonna do about all the garbage?
Can't we just clean it up ourselves ?
When we were in the shelter we all helped the adults, didn't we?
We've been watching all of you volunteers, haven't we?
Can't we make it beautiful again like before the earthquake?

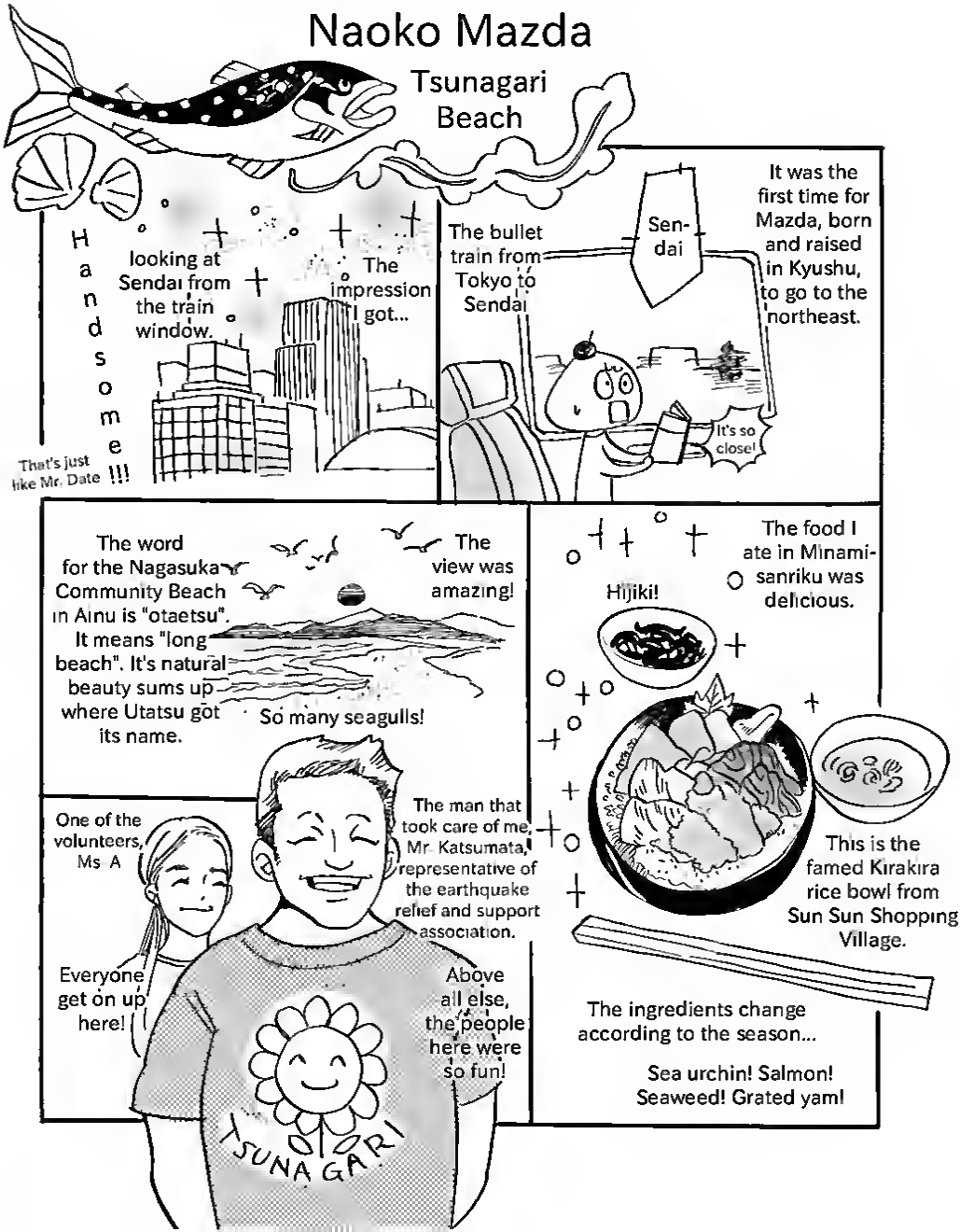
We have been taking and not giving back, haven't we?
Do your best Miyagi!
Let's make the kid's dreams come true! Sea monkeys
After that, little by little...
Okay! Great speech! I guess our team is organized then!
We'll call our-selves ...
Every Saturday from 2 pm, we'd take an hour and a half to clean up the beach.
It's a volunteer project anyone can join. I encourage everyone to sign up for it!
"The Minamisanriku Sea Monkeys!"
That's so cool !!
Minamisanriku Sea Monkey's leader, Mr. Hideto Miura
Sea water cleaning at Nagasuka
Every Saturday from 2pm for about one hour
all of your contributions will help us restore this beautiful beach.
Anyone can join!
Tsunagari, Minamisanriku Sea Monkeys

We cleaned it up bit by bit.
With the help of people from all over the country...
It all came together in the end.
What are you praying for?
...
To look over us.
To look over us, and this town.

Hikari went into the water!
Mr. Katsumata!
I'm gonna be crying all day!
Tsunagari beach. Everyone is waiting for you to come enjoy our beach this summer!

Minamisanriku Interviews
The Afterword

Naoko Mazda


Tsunagari Beach
Handsome
looking at Sendai from the train window.
The impression I got...
That's just like Mr. Date !!!
The bullet train from Tokyo to Sendai
Sen-dai
It was the first time for Mazda, born and raised in Kyushu, to go to the northeast.
It's so close!
The word for the Nagasuka Community Beach in Ainu is "otaetsu". It means "long beach". It's natural beauty sums up where Utatsu got its name.
The view was amazing!
So many seagulls!
The food I ate in Minami-sanriku was delicious.
Hijiki!
One of the volunteers, Ms A
The man that took care of me, Mr. Katsumata, representative of the earthquake relief and support association.
Everyone get on up here!
Above all else, the people here were so fun!
TSUNAGARI
This is the famed Kirakira rice bowl from Sun Sun Shopping Village.
The ingredients change according to the season...
Sea urchin! Salmon! Seaweed! Grated yam!

Instead of an afterword

From the office staff of Stories from 311

This is the continuation of "Stories from 311", "Stories from 311, 3 Years Since That Day". I accompanied many of the artists on interview trips to the northeast again. The thing that had the biggest impression on me this time was how happy so many people were to work. Their rich and very human-like pride and joy they showed toward their work was so bright and powerful, it moved me during the interviews many times. After the complete destruction caused by the earthquake, you could say the suffering they lived through to rebuild everything was necessary in a way, but through that, some people's abilities blossomed, while some were rediscovered. I noticed that was their basis, their basic source for finding happiness in their work, and reflected on my own job which at the time was stagnant, had a fuzzy outlook, and made me worried often (lol).

I didn't notice only things about their work, but also the visceral way of how they lived on, hit me more than a few times. Living in a world full of things, information, and choices, maybe somewhere in my mind, I felt like I was living by my own power, for myself.

On that day, everyday life was completely lost to the people of the northeast, and what had seemed so normal, everyone had become so grateful for. They treasure the happiness they find there. Cooperating, helping each other, and devoting themselves to their work. They're blessed with the robust nature of their hometowns, and thanks to that, humans can thrive on it. They knew that very well.

It may seem like I'm exaggerating, but that feeling I got from the people of the northeast wasn't only there. Without a doubt, I felt that same feeling all over Japan, in all Japanese people, and I felt deep pride for my country.

The northeast helped me notice the potential ability of Japan, and the irreplaceable hope that was in store for Japan's future.

Following the book Kodansha published, this book also contains the story of many places and many people of the northeast. The total number of manga artists that participated in the project got as high as 18 people. The troubles and thoughts the manga artists had when doing the interviews and writing the stories were different for everyone. These manga stories will reach many different people this time. The way they're interpreted, however, depends on the person, doesn't it? That's okay, because in "Stories from 311", each person's unique story has been written.

"Stories from 311" will now continue to be "since that time" stories.

I'd like to give a big thanks in everyone involved in the publication of "Stories from 311, 3 years since that day". Thank you very much.

Michiko Abe

For the publication of the first book, one of the readers sent me a message saying, "Thank you very much for making this manga." When we went to do interviews for the second book, I was given thanks for returning to the northeast. I think all the people and all of their thank-yous really made this book what it is. I'd like to thank everyone involved in the production of this book, especially the manga artists.

Masami Masuga

Time passed as we stood by somewhere, eyes closed, as the memories and thoughts of "that day" fade away little by little. The people who drew, who were drawn, and the supporters. These three things helped us complete this book, and I feel like everything has told me to face each day anew. I hope these stories that have been kept close to their teller's hearts will reach the eyes and ears of many people.

Yuji Miura

This project, "Stories from 311", was possible because of the support of many companies and people.
We would like to thank them here.

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Thank you

Satoru Hiura

Toshinao Aoki

Ume

Kazumi Ohya

Keiko Okamoto

Interview Cooperation, Project Cooperation

Societal Contribution Group United Earth
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Masaki Yato (Web designer)

Stories from The Great East Japan Earthquake

Stories from 311

3 Years Since That Day

KADOKAWA MANGA

Story and Art by

Satoru Hiura / Toshinao Aoki / Ume / Kazumi Ohya / Keiko Okamoto / Riho Sachimi / Mayu Shinjo / Nagamu Nanaji / Tomoko Ninomiya / Kyo Hatsuki / Naoko Mazda

MANGA DE KAKINOKOSU HIGASHINIHON DAISHINSAI
STORY 311 AREKARA 3 NEN
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